

THE PINK

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65p

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Long's Euro dream



Shane takes on hosts France - see page 2



SAINTS ACE TO CARRY HOPES OF A NATION

STEVEN Davis has the hopes of a nation on his shoulders today as he captains Northern Ireland into their Euro 2016 showdown against

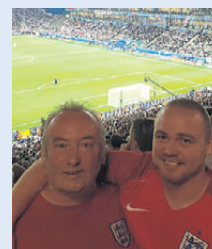
ex-Saint Gareth Bale. Michael O'Neill's side had to endure an agonising three-hour wait to see if they'd even qualified for the next stage after finishing third in Group C. The new 24-team format of the Euros meant that

things remained uncertain for Saints man Davis and Co. However, Turkey's 2-0 win over Czech Republic meant that Northern Ireland's Euros fairytale lived to fight another day. *Continued on page 2*

INSIDE



Top non league coverage - Pages 8/13



Tim's Euro 2016 blog - pages 4-7



Grass always greener? - Pages 14-17

GOT A STORY FOR US? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Skipper Davis carrying Northern Ireland hopes on his shoulders



Steven Davis, left.

from front page

Now, Davis, the Saints midfielder, will lead his countrymen out at the Parc des Princes in Paris in front of fans that are really making the most of their country's inclusion in a major international tournament for 30 years.

Legendary Saints manager Lawrie McMenemy, who was manager of Northern Ireland for two years from 1998, will keep a keen eye on his former charges.

The FA Cup 1976-winning manager is a big fan of manager Michael O'Neill and recognises how their team spirit has been aided by fervent support.

"His (O'Neill) managerial career has only taken him to Brechin City and Shamrock Rovers, but his record leading up to the finals was as good as anyone's and, in reading more about him, he has created a team spirit within his group, which is obvious to see with their efforts on the pitch," McMenemy wrote in his Daily Echo column.

"They also have an extra strength through the support they get."

"Whilst the Northern Irish supporters might like to have a drink now and again there has been no record of any trouble with them and their warmth and support has certainly come over onto the pitch."

It won't be easy for Northern Ireland considering Wales finished above England in Group B and benefit from the brilliant Gareth Bale, the Staplewood Academy graduate.

The Real Madrid man was outstanding through the group stages and is the tournament's joint-topscorer with Spain's Alvaro Morata on three goals.

Jose Fonte and Cedric Soares with Portugal are also in last 16 action today as they face an excellent Croatia in Lens.

The Saints duo haven't appeared for a struggling Portugal side, who squeezed into the knockout stages thanks to three draws in Group F, so far and are likely to watch from the bench once more.

Shane Long, however, will be undoubtedly in the thick of the action for Republic of Ireland as they head into a massively tough tie against hosts France in Lyon.

Long and his Irish counterparts were moments from exiting the competition, but thanks to a late Robbie Brady goal Martin O'Neill's side managed to stun Italy in a 1-0 win and qualify for the next round.

Saints striker Graziano Pelle and the Azzurri meanwhile finished top of Group E despite that defeat and face fellow big guns Spain on Monday evening at the Stade De France.

Pelle netted one goal as the Antonio Conte's side beat Belgium 2-0 in their opening match. Completing the seven-strong group of Saints stars through to the last 16 is Ryan Bertrand and Fraser Forster with England.

England are aiming to put the disappointment of finishing second behind Wales in Group B behind them and face plucky minnows Iceland on Monday night in Nice.

Saints ace Long bidding to shock Euro hosts France

SAINTS striker Shane Long is hoping the Republic of Ireland can write a new chapter in the nation's footballing history against France on Sunday after already earning their place in Irish folklore.

Long and most of his team-mates were just boys when Ireland exploded on to the world stage at Italia 1990 and in the United States four years later, but they ensured their own feats too will be remembered by beating Italy on Wednesday night to secure their passage to the last 16 at Euro 2016.

However not content with that, they are now planning to repeat the dose by dumping the hosts out of the competition in Lyon and securing a quarter-final berth.

Saints man Long said: "I don't think anyone expected us to get out of the group. To do it that way is up there with some of the best moments in Irish football history."

"But we can really make it special now. It's not going to be easy - we're playing one of the favourites, the host nation and in front of lots of French fans."

"It's going to be a hard job, but we fancy ourselves to cause an upset."

"We're going to leave it all out on the pitch and hopefully get that bit of luck to help us over the line."

The odds are stacked against Ireland - France are unbeaten in the competition to date and boast a squad rich in talent, and they have had three days more than their next opponents to recover from their exertions to date.

In addition, the Republic have only been allocated around 4,500 tickets for the game at the Stade de Lyon after their fans vastly out-numbered Italy's in Lille in midweek.

But 29-year-old Long, who sat alongside fellow striker Daryl Murphy as they spoke to the media in Versailles on Friday afternoon, promised they would be ready to do battle all over



Republic of Ireland and Saints striker Shane Long.

again.

He said: "Myself and Murph know what it's like in the [Sky Bet] Championship. You play Saturday, Tuesday, Saturday, Tuesday. We're well used to that sort of routine."

"I feel good personally and all the lads are the same. We have all the recovery here that we need. We have

the cryotherapy, which is -150 degrees for five minutes. Everything that we need is here for us to recover in the best possible way. We'll be ready."

The game will be the first meeting between the sides since Thierry Henry's illegal contribution to a World Cup play-off victory for France in November 2009, and the French me-

dia in particular has made much of an opportunity to gain revenge.

However, both assistant manager Roy Keane and skipper Robbie Keane have played down that aspect, and Long agrees. He said: "That's seven years ago, that's forgotten about now."

"We were devastated at the time because it cost us a place in the finals."

Murray's route to the final?

ANDY Murray faces an all-British clash against Liam Broady on Tuesday as he begins his hunt for a second Wimbledon title.

The 2013 champion has already reached two grand slam finals this year and was seeded second in the draw made on Friday.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at Murray's possible route to glory at the All England Club.

Round One: Liam Broady
Broady reached the second round for the first time last year after he came from two sets down to beat Australian Marinko Matosevic. The 22-year-old was then approaching the world's top 150 but he has slipped to number 234 since.

Round Two: Lu Yen-hsun
Lu knows what it takes to beat Murray, having inflicted a shock defeat at the Olympic Games in 2008. The 32-year-old has, however, lost his last three meetings with Murray.

Round Three: Benoit Paire
Has form for an upset after beating Kei Nishikori at the US Open last year. Murray overcame the Frenchman, albeit from a set down, at Monte Carlo in April and would be confident of doing so again.

Round Four: Nick Kyrgios
He has struggled to surprise Murray who has won all of their last four match-ups and only dropped one set along the way.

Quarter-finals: Richard Gasquet
The Frenchman reached his second Wimbledon semi-final last year, beating Kyrgios and Stan Wawrinka along the way, but it is difficult to see him overcoming Murray on grass. The Scot has not lost to him in six meetings.

Semi-finals: Stan Wawrinka
Grass, however, has never seen the Swiss' best tennis and Wimbledon remains the only major tournament in which he is yet to go past the last eight.

Final: Novak Djokovic
The immovable obstacle for Murray. He has won only two of his last 15 matches against Djokovic and lost to the Serbian in both the Australian and French Open finals this year. Murray, however, is most comfortable on grass - he has won both of their two previous meetings on the surface - and he will have the crowd's support, something that has riled Djokovic in the past.



Andy Murray.

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Adam Rant



The week's big talking points
with ADAM LEITCH

Top flight prices set to go bonkers

Deeney's £30m price tag signals crazy spending

THIS could be one crazy summer.

Forget the Euros, forget even the hunt for a new Saints manager, but the money coming into the Premier League is going to make for a fascinating transfer market.

Given that so little business is generally conducted during a major tournament as well, it is going to be a serious whirlwind come July and August.

If evidence were ever needed that the new TV deal and the extra cash it generates for top flight clubs was going to change the landscape still further, then surely Leicester's pursuit of Troy Deeney sums it up.

Even more amazing than the fact that they offered £25m for Deeney is the fact that Watford turned it down. £25m wasn't enough money for him.

Wow.

No disrespect meant to Deeney, who does a good enough job, but that is an eye-watering amount of money for a player who is not a world beater – certainly not deemed good enough to be appearing in the Euros.

Deeney is 27-years-old and last season scored 13 top flight goals.

That tally is not to be sniffed at of course, but it seems that Watford will demand £30m for a player able to net that many times in a season, and that Leicester will ultimately pay it.

It begs the question that if a Deeney is now worth £30m, then what kind of sums will be spent on genuine star names?

Will it be long before we see a £100m fee for a player by a Premier League club? Surely the world record transfer fee won't take too long to be broken.

This is not a debate about the merits of Deeney, but how football is going utterly crazy.

These sums of money are almost beyond belief, and yet they are somehow now becoming the norm.

Many have hailed the new TV deal and what it could mean for clubs and the areas in which they work.

What we are already seeing though is that Arsene Wenger was correct to laugh off the impact it would have. It is simply going to go to players and to agents.

The fees are clearly getting even further inflated, and no doubt the wages as well.

What is sad about it is that a lot of money effectively leaves the game,



Watford's Troy Deeney and Southampton's Oriol Romeu battle for the ball

rather than sticking in it, making lower league clubs more sustainable for future generations and improv-

ing the grassroots facilities and access to football.

There is no other conclusion you

can sensibly reach when you hear a pricetag of £30m quoted for Troy Deeney.

Opinions divided

IT'S BEEN a curious thing watching England in the Euros.

There has been such a wide divide between what fans and newspaper journalists have thought on one side and the TV pundits on the other.

It has been quite hard to be overly positive about the tournament so far.

The match against Russia was hailed on TV as a springboard type performance with a hugely unfortunate result, while elsewhere it was a source of great disappointment. It is worth noting that Russia didn't get another point after that.

Against Wales, Roy Hodgson was being hailed on TV for his attacking and dynamic substitutions. But elsewhere he was merely naming the team most would have picked anyway, and what choice did he have trailing at half time and staring potential elimination in the face?

The Slovakia game was similarly hailed as some kind of unfortunate incident, when the reality was a terribly dull draw against a team who simply sat in and asked to be broken down, something England could not manage.

It is of course better to start a tournament with some iffy form and then get better, but the great worry has to be that Hodgson still isn't sure what his best team is.



Roy Hodgson

Bold final prediction

ADAM Rant is nothing if not cutting edge and controversial when it comes to his bold predictions, so here's another one – a Novak Djokovic v Andy Murray Wimbledon final.

With Rafa Nadal out and Roger Federer unlikely to be a serious threat given his time out through injury, it seems inevitable.

It would be good if a young pretender, a Dominic Thiem or Alexander Zverev, could make a significant breakthrough, but that needs a lot to go right for them.

Who would be in your top Euro XI?

PRESS Association reporter Simon Peach chooses his Euro 2016 team of the tournament based on the group stages.

4-3-3: McGovern, Srna, Boateng, Bonucci, Alba, Dier, Kroos, Perisic, Payet, Bale, Morata.

GK: MICHAEL MCGOVERN (Northern Ireland): A relative unknown before the tournament, he shone in the narrow defeat to Germany and made 15 saves over the course of the group stage.

RB: DARIJO SRNA (Croatia): Kyle Walker pushed him close but not only did the Croatia captain perform impressively, he managed to do so while coping with the passing of his father. Srna flew home for the funeral but played all three matches.

CB: JEROME BOATENG (Germany): Has comfortably become one of the best defenders in the world and has been solid at Euro 2016, not only helping keep two clean sheets but also managing an impressive 87 per cent pass accuracy.

CB: LEONARDO BONUCCI (Italy): The composed, imposing centre-back has impressed and not only defensively, with his wonderful pass to Emanuele Giaccherini seeing off Belgium in the group opener.



Northern Ireland goalkeeper Michael McGovern.

LB: JORDI ALBA (Spain): Fresh from another fine season with Barcelona, the left-back comes into the team of the group stage after impressing for the reigning champions.

CM: ERIC DIER (England): The defender-cum-defensive midfielder has shone, shielding the defence with aplomb and chipping in going forwards. Dier's free-kick in the opener against Russia was impressive, too.

CM: TONI KROOS (Germany): Incredible vision and technique makes the 26-year-old one of the best midfielders in Europe. Deservedly named man-of-the-match in Germany's 2-0 win against Ukraine.

CM: IVAN PERISIC (Croatia): The mixture of tireless energy and skill has seen the winger shine, with the latter of the Inter Milan man's two goals securing a famous win against Spain.

FW: DIMITRI PAYET (France): Outstanding for the hosts with two man-of-the-match displays and as many goals. The West Ham man is my player of the tournament so far.

FW: GARETH BALE (Wales): The ex-Saints talked a good game and backed it up on the field. Bale netted in all three matches.

FW: ALVARO MORATA (Spain): The much-vaunted striker has added a few million to his price tag, netting three goals after a frustrating display in the opener against the Czech Republic.

Teargas, long walks

TIM MURRAY is an England fan from Chandler's Ford. He has supported England home and away since 1990.

Here's his tale from Euro 2016 so far...

He recounts his treatment at the hands of French police as tear gas filled the air ahead of England match with Russia in Marseille, as well as the two other group games.

Day One

Wednesday, June 8. Two days before the opening game. My friend John, who lives in Haslemere, came to Chandler's Ford to pick me up around 11am. And off we go to Gatwick.

Our travel took us via Majorca, then on to Marseille on the Saturday (match day).

This route was taken to lower the cost of flying directly to Marseille, which was £450 plus as opposed to £70 to Majorca and the €33 from Majorca to Marseille. No brainer.

Whilst still in Majorca we are hearing all sorts of things about "England fans" causing trouble, but once again the British media is wearing blinkers and only wants to see the English in trouble.

The truth is Russian hooligans and Marseille ultras in separate attacks on England fans some with families enjoying themselves.

We arrived in Marseille airport and our driver was waiting to take us to our digs.

We decided to use the boat from our area in Port Rouge to Port Vieux (the old port), which was the scene of the previous attacks.

Arriving 30 mins later about 2pm, it was REALLY hot, and lots of England fans drinking and making lots of good noise.

We decided to move a bit further out, so after passing through the throng of fans we found a quiet bar just a few streets away.

Hearing lots of different noise coming from where the fans were in the port, we knew the atmosphere had changed.

We made a joint decision to make our way to the ground (5pm for a 9pm kick off), only to be told Metro has closed (no reason given) so we have at least a 5k walk!

Having no signage to which direction to go, we relied on our small knowledge of map reading to walk 2k in the wrong direction.

Knackered and thirsty, we find a little bar with a friendly barman who advised us that because of the earlier trouble in the port, all transport was cancelled!

Why they did this is beyond comprehension.

Now thousands (yes thousands) of desperate fans are having to walk miles - like walking from Eastleigh to Southampton - just to get to the stadium.

Eventually we manage to flag down a cab who says he will take us to the stadium for €50, which we try to negotiate, but he's having none of it. So we pay and get as close to the ground as we can.

My two mates have tickets in a dif-



Tim Murray at the England v Slovakia match. Inset: Eric Dier celebrates scoring against Russia.



Tim Murray plays some cricket during Euro 2016

ferent area to me so we arrange to meet up at (pointing to an outside bar) after the game.

They walk off and I am waiting to meet up with another friend and give him the lowdown of our adventure so far, only to find him outside the ground 10 yards from me.

We are in the blue section and the big board says 'blue this way', the same way my previous mates have gone.

Walking up to the gates it suddenly closes... now there is a dangerous situation arising as we have nowhere to go and throngs of fans

heading our way.

People at the front start shouting, so we turn back as most of the people behind us realise what is happening and do the same.

Then there's a very loud bang! There's a smell of teargas in the air one way and a closed gate the other.

Eventually we manage to get out and walk in different direction and walk through a completed different gate than on my ticket.

We're in the stadium! Game on!

I am in the England fans section just behind the goal.

The atmosphere is really good and the first half whizzes by and it's England in front possession-wise but 0-0 scoreline.

Second half England playing towards our goal. We get a free kick outside the box 73 mins gone. Eric Dier lines up the shot.... oooooooooohhhhhh yeeessss!!!

Hodgson takes off Rooney for Wilshere... big mistake!! Also Sterling goes off for Milner. Another big mistake... 90 mins gone, now three minutes of injury time.

Russia equalise...

Game over, now across the other

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- and some football!



Tim Murray at St Etienne prior to the Slovakia game.

side of the pitch we see the Russians invade an England section.

Stewards (who look like school kids) disappear. There's no police, England fans flee to the far side, some climbing over the fence to a big drop to escape. These are really nasty people.

I exit stadium and make way to meeting point ... Stewards and police blocking all over the place.

They really don't have a clue when it comes to crowd control.

We meet up and all transport cancelled again, absolutely no chance of calling or catching a cab.

Why did they let the French have a competition of this magnitude with little or no skills in getting people away from stadiums?

The time now is midnight and we are better clued up as to which way we need to go.

After walking miles we end up at the coast road and still have more to go.

Brian, who is not the most mobile person in the world, is struggling so bad now needs to stop almost every 50 paces to recover. I am not much better and my sciatica is now kicking in.

We see a British number plated car and beg the driver for a lift, only to find his car was quite packed - looking like he was living in it. He took Brian back to our digs.

John and I carry on, arriving back at 4am ... bed has never been

so welcome!

After arriving back at our apartment it was pretty obvious that the Sunday was going to be a day of rest.

We didn't really move until 7pm to catch the Poland v Northern Ireland game with just a little walk to the beach, where I had ordered Moules.

Well this dish the size of a bucket full of mussels in a wine and cream sauce took all of the first half of the TV game and well into the second half for me to finish.

It was during this evening that Brian decided to quit the tournament, mainly because of his walking issues.

So he went on the Internet and decided to book Eurostar back to England to coincide with our flight to Lille.

Two minutes after booking he comes out to our patio shouting and cursing about the French, who were on strike causing our flight to be cancelled.

Eurostar would not let him cancel so that was over £100 wasted.

Now I am all over the internet trying to work on plan B - eventually calling my neighbour to book John and I a Tuesday train ticket, nothing available under €200 each... OUCH!!!

So we book one for the next day, which means we lose the hotel we had booked for one night in Lille, and a car hire had to be cancelled.

Plan C.

We took a bus to Marseille train station, thinking we need a hotel for the night.

But just on the off chance, as we have all our stuff with us, we walk into the ticket office to get my tickets printed only to hear from the ticket person that there was a strike tomorrow and the train might not run.... Grrrrrr!!!

Then with a smile she says 'can you go this afternoon?' But the cost is €7 each to change your ticket.

This is now in our favour, but our original hotel has sold the cancelled room - even though they wouldn't give us any money back.

Meanwhile, Brian has found a cheap ticket back to Majorca, and is going to watch the matches over there. **Cont on page 6**

Best XI of Euro 2016

PRESS Association reporter Rory Dollard picks his Euro 2016 Team of the Tournament based on the group games.

4-3-3: McGovern, Walker, Bonucci, Boateng, Hector, Dier, Kroos, Ramsey, Payet, Morata, Bale.

GK: MICHAEL MCGOVERN (Northern Ireland): Made 16 saves in a brilliant but busy group phase.

RB: KYLE WALKER (England): Had 78 touches in the win over Wales, 58 in the opposition half.

CB: LEONARDO BONUCCI (Italy): Class act led the way with four interceptions and seven tackles against Belgium.

CB: JEROME BOATENG (Germany): Leader of a defence that has kept three successive clean sheets.

LB: JONAS HECTOR (Germany): Has contributed 15 crosses overlapping from defence.

CM: ERIC DIER (England): Most passes by an England player by a clear distance with 231.

CM: TONI KROOS (Germany): Most passes completed at the tournament with 353 - 93 per cent of which reached their target.

CM: AARON RAMSEY (Wales): Two assists and a goal from midfield.

FW: DIMITRI PAYET (France): Two late goals for the hosts and a mammoth 31 crosses.

FW: ALVARO MORATA (Spain): Scored with exactly half of his six shots on target.

FW: GARETH BALE (Wales): Scored in all three appearances.



England's Kyle Walker.

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Who will win the battle of the British?

WITH the group stage of Euro 2016 now complete, focus turns towards the knockout stages of the championship, which will begin when Switzerland take on Poland in St Etienne on Saturday.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at some of the key talking points as the remaining 16 nations look to stay on course for the final at Stade de France on July 10.

LET FOOTBALL MAKE THE HEADLINES

There were plenty of ugly scenes and unwanted negative headlines from several of the group matches, with violence both inside and outside the grounds. While the French authorities and UEFA have each done their best to clamp down on the trouble, question marks remain over fan security and the possibility of further disruption. However, let's all hope the rest of the tournament is played out in the great spirit the vast majority of genuine football supporters have brought with them, rather than again focussing on the mindless actions of certain unwelcome balacava-wearing visitors.

WHO WILL PAY THE



Pride of Wales: Ashley Williams (left) and ex-Saint Gareth Bale

PENALTY?

With the knock-out stages comes the increased probability of games being decided on the lottery of a penalty shoot-out. While some argue the outcome is down more to luck than genuine skill, there is little doubt of the high drama and nerve-shredding tension involved. That, of course, is swiftly followed by utter elation for the winners and total dejection for the losers – as the likes of England's Stuart Pearce, Chris Waddle, David Batty and, not forgetting Gareth Southgate, will all testify.

WHO WILL EMERGE AS THE PRIDE OF BRITAIN?

With all of the three home nations progressing and the Republic of Ireland also booking a place in the last 16 after their surprise 1-0 win over Italy, there will be plenty of ongoing interest. Well, OK, maybe not so much in Scotland. Any bragging rights England secured from their victory over Wales in Lens were quickly diminished after Chris Coleman's men went on to win Group B. That set up a battle of Britain showdown against Northern Ireland in Paris on Saturday. *Cont on facing page*

A spot of cricket in a

from page 5

His wife helps find us a cancelled room in the centre of Lille, €110 for the night and for me to pay cash on arrival at 8pm.

I thought it was time to relax, but clearly not.

There was an announcement (in French) that the train is delayed due to a fire somewhere on our route.

We are diverted and eventually arrive in Lille very tired, very late, very hungry just gone 10pm - two-and-a-half-hours late. Bed has never been so welcome.

Wednesday 15 June

We have to hire a new car from Lille Europe to go to our new hotel in Steenvoorde, close to the Belgium border - no issues this time.

But we do stop off near Ypres to pay our respects to the young lads who fought so gallantly and lost their lives 100 years ago during World War One.

After only 15 minutes I was so saddened by the hundreds of young men cut down in their prime, I had to leave - it was just too much.

I said 'thank you all' and departed.

So we are onto our next digs, anticipating a much better standard of hotel.

Not disappointed at all, such a nice break from the expensive meagre hotel in Lille.

Match day - Wales

We arrive 50km outside Lens and with satnav on we head for a town/village called Benifontaine, where there's supposed to be a park and ride.

No signs. Nothing but a quiet French town.

Is anything going to go to plan on this trip?

With our thinking caps on, we decide to drive to Lens about 5km away.

We get almost to the ground and parking proves impossible.

Then we have a bright idea - follow one of the many buses with 'park n ride 15' on their windscreens.

Ten minutes later we are securely parked eating French Cheese and sharing a beer with a couple of Welsh fans.

Really very pleasant.

Into town on the bus, where we understand there is I booze ban - not what I saw!

This stadium so far has been the easiest to enter, plenty of security (expected) but enough gates to make it quite free flowing.

We meet up with loads of mates and although we have allocated seats it's pretty much an unwritten rule that you sit (stand) where there is space.

The atmosphere is far greater than that of the Russian game, after all it is our 'derby' against the Welsh.

Both anthems are courteously ob-



Tim Murray with his England flag during the European Championship finals in 2004.



Tim Murray and his vuvuzela during the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.



Daniel Sturridge celebrates his winner against Wales.

served with the exception of a few idiots on both sides.

Looking around the stadium, it's the usual 60/40 split in favour of the mighty England.

Possibly 65/35.

Flags adorn the whole stadium, making me so proud to be English.

First half we have wave after wave attacks on the Welsh goal, until that moment when the opposition get a free kick possibly 40 yards from goal.

Gareth Bale (how did Joe Hart miss that) scores a wonder goal

and celebrates in front of the English...(don't blame him)... Expletive Expletive... and more Expletive !!!!!

Second half we have the magical Vardy equalising on 56 mins the subdued England fans are now back in full voice taunting Bale and the Welsh team.

Once again England bombard Wales time and time again....90mins up just injury time.... oh yes sss oh yes she Sturridge you beauty!!!! "WERE NOT GOING HOME."

The Welsh are devastated.... ha bloody ha!

a football fiesta ...!



Tim Murray supporting England in the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea.



Tim Murray in Berlin celebrating on the night England crushed Germany 5-1 in September 2001.

"Don't take me home, please don't take me home, I just don't wanna go to work, I wanna stay here and drink all your beer, please don't please don't take me home."

After the game, I am foolishly predicting that we will have seven points and top the group after Lyon and Slovakia... oh dear, so many people have booked flights, ferries, trains to Paris not forgetting accommodation.

I have a wealth of experience in tournament group stages and nothing is guaranteed.

OK
Lyon hotel Fl Venissieux, I was getting the lads together to see who wanted to be "Tunnel King" and who was going to carry the "Vault Horse".

It really was below economy level.

However, having said that, it was in a great location seven stops from the main central station "Gare Part-Dieu" - a couple of stops from the fan park.

Yes, I know the game was in St Etienne, but this was far better for most of our mates were staying in

this area and one lad had organised 13 coaches to and from the game.

Day before the game we hit the fan park, just outside of curiosity and watched a game on the big screen.

Well the second half of it.

By now I was a bit full of football so can't even remember who was playing.

But I did know that some guys started a game of cricket using jumpers and eventually drinking cups for wickets - the bat being three cups wedged together.

Much to the amusement of the foreign fans thinking 'Crazy British'.

I even joined in at one point. Two wickets for seven runs... not done that since schooldays.

On the way out of the fan park we encountered four Northern Ireland lads, two dads and two sons, so our exit took a little longer as it would have been rude not to share a few beers (4 hours later) with them.

Matchday - Slovakia

Ok it's match day and it's late kick off and we have a coach to find - luckily it's at the main station.

How Steve organised it was beyond me but me and six of my mates were St Etienne bound.

One hour journey took almost two hours due to traffic, but at least we got there.

Walking to the ground there were about nine English to one Slovakian.

And on arriving near to the stadium, I couldn't help but take a picture outside St Etienne.

Arriving at the stadium, security was left right till the last point and this was a huge mistake because people were being crushed and getting angry because it took almost 90 mins to go 20 yards, shouts of "you don't know what your doing" and police getting agitated because people are still arriving making it even worse.

I get into the stadium and once again it's a free for all to get onto the seating area. Just in time to hear the second anthem finish... woohhhh!

First half and I am on my own, having lost my mates in the melee. But that's OK - I am a big boy.

Invaluable

Texts with everyone saying where they are and join Simon and John right at the back of the upper tier - loads of room. Match is so one sided, but as usual we have trouble getting past 11 men of Slovakia. 0-0

Why do I feel disappointed? We have qualified and my delay in booking Paris proved invaluable, as we are now Nice-bound.

We find a place in Antibes and settle in for seven days R&R right on the sea front.

With pool and walking distance from main old town.

Beautiful... watch the Hungary v Portugal in a sports bar with BBC commentary. At 3-3 it was the best game of the tournament... as it stands we are due to play Portugal and that little Winker (previous match where he winked at his team mates getting Rooney sent off) RONALDO.

But hold on - Iceland score in injury time and a huge cheer goes up... we now play the Vikings of Iceland, to which I say ... I prefer ASDA!

The Euro 2016 last 16 big issues

from facing page

England tackle everyone's second favourite team Iceland in Nice on June 27.

Saints striker Shane Long and his Republic colleagues, meanwhile, face the formidable task of trying to upset hosts France on Sunday.

While genuine hopes of going on to win the competition might be somewhat thin, being the last team to come back home is certainly something worth singing about for a few seasons.

THE LOW ROAD TO GLORY IN PARIS WILL BE TOUGH

Following Croatia's win over Spain to top Group D and England's failure to see off Slovakia, suddenly the bottom half of the draw does not look as inviting.

There is, of course, the sound argument that if you are going to win a major championship, you are going to have to beat the best somewhere along the way.

That said, taking on Italy next was probably not what Spain coach Vicente del Bosque had in mind when plotting his squad's path towards Saint-Denis on July 10, nor a potential meeting with



Cristiano Ronaldo has scored in four Euro Championship finals

world champions Germany at the quarter-final stage, where England could end up against France.

Had the Three Lions taken just one of their chances against Slovakia, things might have been so different - as they may yet turn out to be for Wales.

CAN RONALDO STEP THINGS UP?

After misfiring in front of goal, lambasting Iceland's "small mentality", proving he is human with a spot-kick blunder swiftly followed by an admirable selfie moment with a fan, then hurling a reporter's microphone into a lake, Cristiano Ronaldo has rarely been out of the spotlight during the tournament.

However, the Real Madrid superstar answered those critics with two goals in Lyon as Portugal drew a thrilling tie 3-3 with Hungary to progress to a last-16 clash with Croatia.

Playing in a record 17th European Championship finals match, Ronaldo became the first player to score at four different tournaments.

The cameras will all again be on the three-time World Player of the Year in Lens - and everyone is waiting to see just what he will deliver when it matters most.

Non league FOOTBALL



Ashley Jarvis.

Ashley Jarvis in line for quick Salisbury reunion

FORMER Follands and Sholing marksman Ashley Jarvis is in line for a quick reunion with Salisbury.

After helping Whites to the 2015/16 Sydenhams Premier title and promotion to the Southern League, Jarvis will be staying in the Wessex ranks with Moneyfields next season.

And the Southampton-based striker, who banged in 23 goals in 44 appearances for Salisbury, will be gunning for his old teammates when Moneys host Steve Claridge's men at

Dover Road in a pre-season friendly on Saturday, July 23 (3pm).

The two clubs were involved in high-scoring affairs in the Sydenhams Premier Division last term.

Convincing

The first league meeting saw Whites run out convincing 6-1 winners at the Moneyfields Sports Ground with Jarvis getting on the scoresheet as the hosts finished with eight men.

The reverse fixture finished all square, 2-2.

Another familiar face who may be on show for Moneys is Louie Martin. He made two cup appearances for Claridge's side last term.

Salisbury's first pre-season friendly is at home to ex-Ray Mac boss Darrell Clarke's Bristol Rovers on Saturday, July 9 (1pm).

● Got a local league football story for us? Email wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

● Keep up to date with local football online at dailyecho.co.uk

Swann up and away

NICK Swann is making a sizeable leap from the Sydenhams top flight to the Southern Premier Division next term.

The former AFC Bournemouth academy player, who made waves with Hamworthy United last season, has been offered the chance to shine at Dorchester Town.

And the teenage midfielder, described as "a special talent" by former Hammers' boss Shane Traynor, said: "It's a massive step up for me."

"I had a couple of offers from lower down (the non-League pyramid), but I wanted to go somewhere where I can improve in each training session."

Traynor said of Swann in April: "Nick is a special player. I can see why teams like Dorchester are interested - he is very comfortable on the ball."

● NEWPORT IoW will run with three senior sides for the 2016/17 season.

Joining Andy Sampson's Sydenhams Premier team are the new-look Newport Reserves, managed by former first-team boss John Linington, who will play in the Wyvern Combination League Division One East.

Last year's reserves, managed by Stuart Ross, have been renamed Newport IW A and will continue in Division Two of the IW Saturday League.

Linington's reserves will be run as a development squad and include Barrie Wade, Roger McCormack, Justin Hughes, Mark Fletcher, David Yates, Ashley Wright and Pat Walsh as part of the management team.

Linington said: "This will be a massive step for these young players' progress with the ultimate aim of supporting the first team. We hope the fans get behind this venture and show their support."

The team will include members of last season's Newport IW U16s team, plus a sprinkling of young Island League players.



Nick Swann, left

Cornick wanted by Glovers for another season on loan

Player impressed along with others two over last year

FORMER Wessex starlet Harry Cornick has made a big impression at Yeovil Town.

So much so that Glovers' boss Darren Way is keen to loan the AFC Bournemouth winger again next term.

Cornick, plucked from Sydenhams League outfit Christchurch in January 2013, played 42 games and scored seven goals for Yeovil last term.

He was joined by other temporary signings from Premier League clubs throughout his breakthrough professional campaign and Way admitted that Cornick's name was one that had remained on his hit list.

He told the *Western Gazette*: "(Everton's) Liam Walsh is a no-brainer, (Swansea's) Connor Roberts is a no-brainer and Harry Cornick. They are the three I want back at the club."

"None of the parent clubs have said no, but they all want to see what level the players come back at. That is the first thing they will do."

"If you add five quality loans to the squad, you are almost doubling the strength. You could see what they did last season."

"You have to wait for them, it is not going to be done early. A lot of the big boys are travelling away to different countries and they need big squads."

Cornick has made one competitive appearance for the Cherries' first team, coming off the bench during an FA Cup third round victory at Rotherham United in January 2015.

1 OLLIE Cherrett reckons strength in depth can take Christchurch's promotion bid to the next level after poaching Ringwood Town's top scorer Matt Steer.

Steer notched 15 goals in 29 appearances for the Long Lane outfit last season but has agreed to reunite with Cherrett, his manager at previous club Merley.

And with Grant Cormack, Lloyd Cole and Jacques Bernard now able



Pic - Corin Messer - 09/07/13 - cm090713AFCBvXCH36

to commit more time to Priory, Cherrett likes the look of a squad that will be bidding to build on a sixth-placed finish in Sydenhams One last term.

"Everyone has signed on, including Grant, Lloyd and Jacques, lads that were signed but not available for large parts of last season," the boss explained.

"They are going to be like three new

signings and, alongside Matty, it just takes that competition for places on to the next level.

"Matty was with us at Merley before he went to Ringwood. We know him well and it was a no-brainer to give him an opportunity."

"He wants to be successful at this level and so do we, so it should be a good fit."

1 GOALKEEPER Nick Hutchings has agreed terms on another one-year deal with Vanarama National League South newcomers Poole Town. He joins Michael Walker, Jamie Whisken, Carl Pettefer, Jamie Gleeson, Luke Burbidge and Richard Gillespie from the Evo-Stik Southern Premier title-winning squad in staying put at Tatnam.

Non league FOOTBALL



Franklyn Clarke, right

Clarke still pondering whether to stay with Magpies

FORMER Blackfield & Langley man Franklyn Clarke was still considering his options this week and pondering whether to stay at Dorchester Town.

The midfielder, who became an integral part of the Magpies' squad after signing from Wimborne in December, has been in talks at the Avenue Stadium since March about a possible contract.

With a baby on the way, he says family is his top priority right now.

Asked whether he will be training with Dorchester once pre-season starts

next week, Clarke said: "It's a massive year for me football-wise, so I want to make sure that I make the decision that allows me to push on and develop.

"It's got to be right before I commit to anything."

Magpies' boss Mark Jermyn said: "Frankie did extremely well for us last season and he is a pleasure to work with.

"We've made him an offer to try and keep him but, as with the other young lads that we had in last season, they've had good offers elsewhere.

"For Frankie I don't think it's about money, it is really about playing the highest level he can at a competitive level.

"He's exploring all his options."

One player definitely leaving the Magpies this summer is wing-back Oakley Hanger, who had a spell in the Sydenhams Premier Division with Lymington Town.

Hanger is heading to America in August to play for university outfit Saginaw Valley State Cardinals.

U18s boss is wanted

BEMERTON Heath Harlequins are looking for an under-18s manager.

Anyone interested should visit bhfc.co.uk and or call chairman Steve Slade on 07798 732799.

Meanwhile, central midfielder Jon Blake has returned to Western Way.

The ex-Poppies and Wimborne Town man put pen to paper for the Sydenhams Premier outfit last week.

He joins Scott Joyce (Brockenhurst), Jake Rawkins (AFC Totton) and Connor Doe (Blackfield & Langley) on Graham Kemp's list of summer signings.

Footy fun

GOSPORT Borough In The Community are holding three summer holiday football schools at The Aerial Direct Stadium, Privett Park, for girls and boys aged 6-13 of all abilities.

The two-day courses will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays August 2/3, August 15/16 and August 30/31 and will be packed with coaching drills, fun, games and prizes. The price is £40 for both days and £25 for a single day, with a family discount offer of £70 for two children from the same family for both days. The price for any two of the three schools is £70 or it's £100 for all three.

For more information contact Sam Pearce on 07901 969795 or via email at sampearce.gbfc@hotmail.com

£5k prize

HAVANT & Waterlooville bowed out of the National League with a cheque for £5,000.

The Hawks – relegated to the Ryman Premier Division – scooped the 'Best Project For Older People' prize for 2016 at the National League AGM in salute of their over-50s walking football project.

Club secretary Trevor Brock was presented with the award and a cheque for £5,000 by National League president Brian Lee.

Wilson off

EX-SALISBURY City defender Glenn Wilson has decided not to renew his contract at Margate. Wilson, who joined the Hartsdown Park outfit from Aldershot Town last summer, played almost every minute for Margate last season as they narrowly avoided the drop from the National League South. He won the players' player-of-the-year award for 2015/16.

Former stars to make Brockenhurst return

Manager re-signs duo to help with areas of concern

BROCKENHURST have welcomed two familiar faces back to Grigg Lane.

With their Sydenhams Premier preparations all systems go after being granted planning permission for new floodlights, the Badgers have strengthened with the return of talented wideman Will Tickle and reliable centre-back Joe Chamberlain, writes Wendy Gee.

Tickle is back in the fold having spent last season at Lymington Town, while Chamberlain – an ex-Eastleigh youngster – drifted out of football after just 12 appearances for Folland Sports at the start of 2015/16.

Welcoming the duo back to Brock, manager Pat McManus said: "Centre-back was a problem for us last season and was an area we needed to address.

"Joe signed for Follands because it was more local, but he quickly decided it wasn't for him and took a season out."

As for Tickle, McManus is in no doubt that, on his day, he is one of the brightest stars in the Wessex galaxy.

"We did miss him last year," he said. "Brock's a different place now to when Will left us, we're looking to progress.

"He's moved to Bournemouth now, having lived in Southampton before, which makes Brockenhurst more accessible.

"He suits the way we want to play. Ideally we want him playing one side, Mark Barker on the other, and Ryan Long though the middle. If that comes together, it's a frightening front three.

"Ryan was a target for AFC Totton but we've managed to fend them off. His brother Jake (Long) had already signed on. We've kept everyone we wanted to keep and only had Ryan to get sorted."

While replacement floodlights will be a big outlay for Brock, McManus is confident that funds will be made



Joe Chamberlain (left, green) in action for Brockenhurst. Inset: Will Tickle (blue and white).

available for the team – albeit that they won't be throwing silly money at climbing the league.

"We'll have more resources and we're looking to do something next season. Our goal is top-ten and beyond," said McManus.

"We've got floodlights to pay for, but

we've got to regenerate some money into the team to make ourselves competitive.

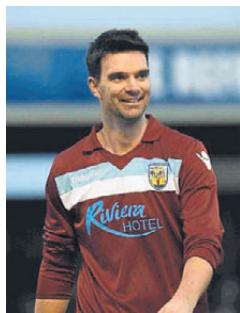
"We're not going to chuck loads of money at it because, as a coaching staff, we've got a responsibility to make certain players better.

"There's no more glory in finishing

eighth and spending a fortune than in finishing 14th and earning money from an FA Cup run (as Brock did last season).

"Spending loads of money and putting the club at risk is not what I'm about and it's not what the chairman is about."

Non league FOOTBALL



Tim Sills.

Watersiders make big statement of intent with Tim

BLACKFIELD & Langley have sounded out their Sydenhams Premier title intentions by welcoming former Football League striker Tim Sills on board as player-coach.

In a coup for the Watersiders, the 36-year-old has dropped down two divisions from Southern Premier outfit Weymouth to join Glenn Howes' ambitious crew.

Sills forged a successful career following his breakthrough days at Basingstoke, peaking with more than 100

appearances for Torquay United. He headed the second goal in the 2009 play-off final that took the Gulls back to League Two.

Romsey-born Sills, who also numbers Aldershot Town, Oxford United, the old Hereford United and Stevenage among his former clubs, completes a trio of ex-Terras at Gang Warily.

Having signed central defender Sam Poole last summer, the ambitious Wessex top flight outfit recently added midfielder Luke Winsper to the ranks.

Sills tweeted: "Delighted that next season I will be playing for the ambitious Blackfield and Langley FC as player/coach. New adventure begins."

The frontman's move to the Waterside comes after he had failed to agree personal terms for 2016/17 with Weymouth. He had a dual role at the Bob Lucas Stadium, combining playing duties with assisting boss Jason Matthews.

Blackfield, third in the Sydenhams Premier last term, begin pre-season training on Saturday, July 2 (10am).

Huddart on the move to Eastleigh

AT a lofty 6ft 4in tall, new Eastleigh goalkeeper Ryan Huddart towers over England's Jack Wilshere.

But the 19-year-old Arsenal loanee still has some growing to do football-wise if he is to muscle past Petr Cech, David Ospina and Wojciech Szczesny in the Gunners' pecking order.

To aid his development Arsenal have agreed to send him on a season-long loan to the Silverlake Stadium where he will vie with the experienced Ross Flitney for the No 1 spot as Eastleigh set their sights on National League glory.

Huddart, who has represented England at under-16 level, joined Arsenal three years ago from Charlton Athletic for £250,000 and is highly rated at the Emirates.

He signed professional forms for the Premier League giants on his 17th birthday watched by Gunners legend and then head of youth development Liam Brady.

He was the Gunners' first-choice keeper in the Under-18s UEFA Youth League campaign and manager Arsene Wenger named him on the bench for two Champions League group matches against Borussia Dortmund and Galatasaray in 2014.

Tall and agile, Kent-born Huddart cuts an imposing figure and has a determined attitude to match.

Eastleigh chief executive officer Mark Jewell said: "He is clearly a genuinely nice guy, but fiercely competitive. "I know his presence at the club is going to raise the bar. "Although he is a young man, he brings with him great professionalism due to the experience gained in his time at Arsenal FC.

"I would like to thank Ryan's representatives, along with Arsenal's technical director Richard Law and company secretary David Miles, for making this loan possible.

"I will be doing everything possible to ensure relations between Eastleigh FC and Arsenal FC are to develop to their fullest potential," Jewell added.



Ryan Huddart with Jack Wilshere

Brokenhurst given approval for floodlight improvements

Upgrades needed to match league's required lux level

BROCKENHURST can look forward to another season in the Sydenhams Premier Division after securing planning permission for a new floodlight system at Grigg Lane.

With current lux levels falling way short of the required standard for Step 5 football, Brock risked being thrown out of the Wessex top tier had the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) not given replacement floodlights the thumbs up, writes Wendy Gee.

But, subject to conditions, the NFNPA have approved Brock's plans for modern LED luminaires (bulbs) meeting the required average 180 lux. Designed to reduce light pollution and eliminate spillage outside the pitch, they will be fitted to the existing pylons at a height of about 14 to 15 metres.

Although the new lights will be less expensive to run than the old ones, installation of the new system does not come cheap.

Brock have yet to finalise which company will carry out the work but have been given quotes in the region of £25,000 to £30,000.

Part of that cost will be covered by Football Foundation funding and the club have been busy with some fundraising initiatives of their own.

The work will be timed to coincide with Vodafone replacing one of their mobile telephone masts stationed at the ground.

"We had a request to resolve the floodlight problem in February and it's been a serious issue for us," admitted club chairman Stan Reid.

"This is a massive investment for the club. You can't just produce £30,000 overnight. These things take time.

"We've capitalised one of the contracts for the mobile telephone masts to help with funding. We've given up the rent and received a capital lump



The main stand at Brokenhurst

sum from an investor.

"It's crucial we don't just waste that money, we've got to use it to cover for the fact that we've lost the rent."

All being well, Brock intend placing an order for new floodlights by the end of this month with a view to the work being completed in late August.

"It's only midweek floodlit games that will be affected and they won't

kick off until September, so hopefully we'll get a bit of latitude to get the work done," said Reid.

"We want to do the work while the pitch is hard so we don't do any damage."

"Pre-season will go ahead as planned. We've done extensive work on our pitch and we start playing (home) friendlies around July 16."

The launch of new under-18 and development squads – plus Sunday youth games – mean there will be more football played at Grigg Lane than ever next term.

And just to ensure that another wet winter does not play havoc with training, the club will be using facilities at nearby Brokenhurst College for all three of their senior teams.

Non league FOOTBALL



HOLDERS face early defence of league cup

HOLDERS Team Solent face an early start to their defence of the Sydenhams Wessex League Cup.

The Southampton Solent University side are one of 22 teams included in the first round of the 2016/17 competition and have been drawn at home to Premier Division rivals Horndean.

If they successfully negotiate that hurdle, James Taylor's Students will host the winners of the first round tie between Weymouth Reserves and Brockenhurst.

Last season's defeated finalists Newport IoW are also in first round action at Wessex new boys Shaftesbury.

In a change to the rules of the competition, SWL Cup ties will now go straight to a penalty shootout after 90 minutes other than in the final.

And instead of the semi-finals being decided at a neutral venue, they will be played over one leg on the ground of the first club drawn out of the hat.

As always, the final will be staged at a venue decided by

the SWL board. Extra time and penalties will be played, if necessary.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE CUP DRAW 2016/17

First round: Pewsey Vale v Totton & Eling, Verwood Town v Alresford Town, Bemerton HH v US Portsmouth, Weymouth Reserves v Brockenhurst, Shaftesbury v Newport IoW, Downton v Bournemouth Poppies, Team Solent v Horndean, East Cowes Vics v AFC Stoneham, Bashley v Moneyfields, New Milton Town v Fareham Town, Laverstock & Ford v Romsey Town.

Second round: Whitchurch Utd v Laverstock & Ford or Romsey Town, Team Solent or Horndean v Weymouth Reserves or Brockenhurst, Downton or Bournemouth Poppies v Pewsey Vale or Totton & Eling, Shaftesbury or Newport IoW v New New Milton Town or Fareham Town, Lymington Town v Bemerton HH or US Portsmouth, Folland Sports v Verwood Town or Alresford Town, East Cowes Vics or AFC Stoneham v Ringwood Town, Blackfield & Langley v Amesbury Town, Bashley or Moneyfields v Fawley AFC, Fleet Spurs v Hamble Club, Hamworthy Utd v Cowes Sports, Andover New Street v Portland Utd, Hythe & Dibden v Andover Town, Tadley Calleva v Christchurch, Alton Town v Baffins Milton Rovers, AFC Portchester v Sholing.

Herbert seeks new blood at Folland after dual blow

FOLLAND Sports boss Dave Herbert fears loyalty and commitment are dying out of local football.

As if the Follands Park job was not arduous enough already, Herbert has received two major slaps in the face this week.

Despite relegation from the Sydenhams Wessex top flight, the Folland Sports manager had been looking forward to 2016/17 with former Liss Athletic boss Rich Bessey by his side as joint first-team manager and Bjay Green taking charge of the Planemakers' reserves.

But that optimism was abruptly shattered on Monday when Bessey pulled out less than two weeks before the start of pre-season and Green – who ran Gosport Borough's under-18s last term – decided to take his fledgling reserve squad to Baffins Milton Rovers instead.

Struggling to hide his disappointment, Herbert said: "Rich (Bessey) said he wanted to spend more time with his family, but I think it was more a case that the sponsors he was bringing in had let him down and he was feeling disheartened.

"He promised the world and was going to bring in sponsorship for kits, tracksuits etc, but he lost face when that fell through and now I don't have a co-manager.

"I'm on the waiting list for a hip operation which should be in the next couple of months and I was looking to halve the managerial side. I feel aggrieved that Rich has gone only a week or so before pre-season.

Loyalty

"To top it off, Bjay Green's gone to Baffins. He would have brought some players with him and now we've got to find a new group.

"Loyalty in football doesn't seem to exist anymore," he lamented. "People just don't care about clubs and commitment.

"It bugs me when people think it's OK just to up and leave. I wouldn't do it even though I've felt like quitting myself on numerous occasions."

Follands at least have some bright news to report with Cort Swan and ex-player Richard Butt climbing aboard as coaches and former Sholing and AFC Stoneham man Roy Kingdon appointed commercial manager.

But although Herbert has successfully re-signed players Luke Musselwhite, Matt Watts and Javi Santafe Vivo, he was unsure this week if the three newcomers signed by Bessey – Ash Howes, Tom Woodward and



Folland Sports boss Dave Herbert.

Alex Mirov – would stay put. "If they stay, we'll be up near the top and competing. If not, we'll be rebuilding again," he said.

Behind the scenes, Follands are in dire need of new faces – particularly a secretary to replace the out-going Adrian Harris.

Solutions

"We've known for ages that Adrian would be leaving, but he's still around trying to find solutions," said Herbert.

"The committee need to pull their finger out because we've not yet got a secretary

going into the new season. We need other people too. At the moment I'm doing a lot of the things the committee should be doing, trying to get the floodlights sorted and so on."

Anyone interested in filling a vacancy – particularly co-manager, reserve manager or club secretary – should contact Herbert ASAP on 07775 845312 or Adrian Harris on 07774 962813 or at follandssportsfc@hotmail.co.uk

Potential new players are welcome to attend pre-season training which begins on June 30 at Follands Park, 7.15pm.

Poole Town boss: We need council to find us new site

TOM Killick has told council chiefs to "face up to their responsibilities" and find Poole Town a suitable stadium site.

Manager Killick is preparing Dolphins for life in National League South on the back of a fourth promotion in 12 seasons, progress that has been stunted in the past by their modest headquarters, writes Andy Mitchell.

Poole were only allowed to go up from the Sydenhams Wessex League after their third straight championship in 2011 due to ground grading issues.

The club has managed to stay one step ahead in going up another two levels since but now faces its biggest challenge – meeting the Football Association's B grade by March 31, 2017.

In March, vice-chairman Chris Reeves said a redevelopment of Tatnam remained the club's best option.

But with property developer Eddie Mitchell on the cusp of purchasing 51 per cent of the club Killick wants to move on.

Progress

He told The (Bournemouth) Daily Echo: "We all desperately want the club to progress and I think everyone knows the only way that can happen is for us to get a new ground.

"There is no point beating around the bush, our ground is a bit of an embarrassment to the town bearing in mind the level of football we're at.

"It is all very well when you're knocking around the leagues we found ourselves in a few years ago but we should have a stadium the town can be proud of.

"It is such a shame. We're a league above Weymouth and Dorchester but their grounds are significantly better than ours and you can extend that to pretty much every club in the area, the likes of Basingstoke and Havant.

"On and off the field, the club has done so well and now we need a facility that befits the status of the club.

"This is not just about the first team, the whole club has grown so quickly and the people of the town are increasingly becoming a part of it.

"When you're young, you aspire to play at the highest possible level and dream of the Premier League, but it is also an ambition for many to try to play at the stadium that represents your hometown.

"When I was young, the idea of playing at Poole Stadium was a big deal and something I remember strongly, but we can't offer that to youngsters.

Has to happen

"We're at a level now where it has to happen. It is my understanding that we're not asking for money – which I appreciate would be difficult for a council to justify – it is just about some support to find a suitable site.

"The council has to face up to their responsibilities in relation to that and I am hoping Eddie can push it forward."

Asked about the prospect of developing their current home, Killick said: "In an ideal world, I think it would be away from Tatnam.

"As long as we are sharing with the school, I think there will inevitably be certain limitations. I think we need a different site."



Poole Town's Tatnam ground.

Non league FOOTBALL



Three up, three down ruling for Wessex divisions

THREE clubs will be relegated and three promoted between the two Sydenhams Wessex League divisions at the end of this season.

The switch from two-up, two-down was given the thumbs up at Tuesday's AGM. With Division One now up to 21 teams, chairman Ian Hoare said: "I think they deserve an extra promotion place."

"But should a reserve team or nursery club finish in the top-three, they will not get promoted," he stressed. "The fourth-placed team, should they wish to, would

go up instead."

With two leagues – the Hampshire Premier and Dorset Premier – feeding into the Wessex, two clubs could be relegated from Division One and replaced by two from Step 7. Alternatively, they could be considered for re-election.

● DUGOUT dismissals will result in offenders being banished to the changing room in the Sydenhams Wessex League next term.

With no firm FA rule over where a manager or coach should go should he/

she be dismissed from the technical area, the league has introduced a directive of its own.

"Any person dismissed will have to go to the changing room," said SWL chairman Ian Hoare. "There's no point sending a manager off if he just steps over the barrier and carries on."

The exception to the rule would be the team physio, who could not be replaced on the day. Should they incur the wrath of the ref, they would miss the next game.

Call to join FA charter

THE Sydenhams Wessex League want a full house of FA Charter Standard clubs by the end of next season.

In the past, a league has required 60 per cent of its clubs to achieve it to be a Charter Standard League.

Now, the FA have upped it to 83 per cent.

"We are a Charter Standard League and our aim is that every club coming into our league or is currently in it will be Charter Standard by the end of next season," explained SWL chairman Ian Hoare.

"Clubs who don't achieve it will have to pay their annual subscription the following year (instead of it being paid for them out of sponsorship money)."

"There will come a time when the FA say that every club has to be Charter Standard and there are a lot of benefits."

"This league being Charter Standard has bought all new bibs again for the clubs."

"Let's do it! Let's become a full Charter Standard League."

"The FA Charter Standard Club Programme is a best practice guide that sets standards of coaching, administration and child protection for all clubs outside of the Football League and Premier League."

Play fair

SYDENHAMS Wessex clubs will be hit in the pocket if they don't clean up their disciplinary act.

Any club amassing more than 100 points for red and yellow cards could be fined for bringing the game into disrepute.

"Tadley Calleva won it (the Fair Play League) last season and still finished third in Division One," pointed out league chairman Ian Hoare. "You don't have to be soft to be disciplined."

Pat's back

WIMBORNE Town have re-signed young AFC Bournemouth goalkeeper Pat O'Flaherty.

The stopper spent three months with the Magpies in the Southern League last season and will be returning to Cuthbury on loan.

O'Flaherty, who has also spent time with AFC Totton, was one of four members of Cherries' under-21s to win a new contract. He penned a 12-month deal in March.

He will continue to train with Bournemouth and is understood to have agreed an initial two-month loan with the Magpies.



Ian Hoare

Green light after big Wessex debate



Sydenhams One champions Portland United.

DESPITE a heated debate over Weymouth Reserves' inclusion in the Wessex One, the proposed Sydenhams League constitution for 2016/17 has been given the green light.

It means the league will run with 43 clubs – 22 in the Premier Division and 21 in Division One.

Promoted champions Salisbury have swapped places with relegated Bashley who drop down from the Southern League Division One South & West.

The decision to go with 22 top-flight clubs spells good news for second-

to-bottom Alresford Town who have been reprieved from relegation after a season of struggle.

Brockenhurst, whose Premier Division future was thrown into doubt by floodlight issues, have gained the necessary planning permission to upgrade their system at Grigg Lane and will remain at Step 5.

And there was a similarly happy outcome for Division One outfit Ringwood Town. Despite failing to bring their ground up to scratch by the March 31 deadline, they have since completed the necessary work

at Long Lane, negating the need for a ballot over their future in the league.

Ringwood are joined in a strong-looking Division One by relegated Folland and four league newcomers – Baffins Milton and Hamble Club (both Hampshire Premier) plus Shaftesbury and Weymouth Reserves (both Dorset Premier League).

Champions Portland and runners-up Amesbury are both promoted to the Premier.

The constitution was passed at Tuesday's AGM by a vote of 26 to 20.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE CONSTITUTION 2016/17

Premier Division: AFC Portchester, Alresford Town, Amesbury Town, Andover Town, Bashley, Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Blackfield & Langley, Bournemouth Poppies, Brockenhurst, Cowes Sports, Fareham Town, Fawley AFC, Hamworthy United, Horndean, Lymington Town, Moneyfields, Newport IoW, Portland Utd, Sholing, Team Solent, Verwood Town, Whitchurch Utd.

Division One: AFC Stoneham, Alton Town, Andover New Street, Baffins Milton Rovers, Christchurch, Downton, East Cowes Vics, Fleet Spurs, Folland Sports, Hamble Club, Hythe & Dildon, Laverstock & Ford, New Milton Town, Pewsey Vale, Ringwood Town, Romsey Town, Shaftesbury, Tadley Calleva, Totton & Eling, US Portsmouth, Weymouth Reserves.

Officials vote Whitchurch as friendliest club in league

SYDENHAMS Wessex League referees were in no doubt where they received the best hospitality last season.

In an online poll, they overwhelmingly voted Whitchurch United as the club that looks after them best.

Jolly

The jolly Jam Boys received the referees' Friendliest Club Award at Tuesday's SWL

annual meeting.

"No dinner-dance, no prize money."

That was the threat issued to Sydenhams Wessex League clubs at Tuesday's AGM.

Over the years, league officials have done everything in their power to get all clubs to attend the annual dinner-dance/presentation night out of respect for long-time sponsors Sydenhams.

But still some clubs shun the event – and now the league will hit them in the pocket.

Prize money

"If you have won prize money (for a high league position or a cup run) and you don't come to the dinner-dance, you won't receive it," warned chairman Ian Hoare.

"Sydenhams have been good to us and the money they give us has been enormous."

Non league FOOTBALL



Richard Luffman.

Midweek game arranged for clubs

THERE will be a staggered midweek start to the new Sydenhams Premier Division season.

Traditionally clubs competing in the opening round of the FA Cup like to get at least one league game under their belts beforehand.

But with the extra preliminary round scheduled early for Saturday, August 6,

clubs would have been kicking off the season in late July had the Wessex stuck with their normal Friday/Saturday launch.

Instead returning SWL fixtures secretary Roger Allen has fixed everyone up with a midweek game, starting with James Taylor's Team Solent against Richard Luffman's new-look Alresford

Town on Monday, August 1.

Opening fixtures 2016/17
Monday August 1: Team Solent v Alresford
Tuesday August 2: AFC Portchester v Horndean, Andover Town v Sholing, Bashley v Hamworthy Utd, Bemerton v Brockenhurst, Poppies v Fawley AFC, Cowes Sports v Blackfield & Langley, Fareham v Newport IOW, Moneyfields v Lymington Town.
Wednesday August 3: Verwood Town v Portland Utd, Whitchurch Utd v Amesbury Town.

Reserve sides 'are not right for this league'

... but chairman admits FA rules must be followed

IF IT had been down to league chairman Ian Hoare, Weymouth Reserves would not have been allowed into Sydenhams Division One.

But these days, it is not as simple as that, writes Wendy Gee.

As part of the Football Association's National League System, the Sydenhams Wessex League are obliged to follow the rules laid down by the governing body.

Although Hoare understood the outrage stirred up by the Terras' second string being placed in Sydenhams One, he was mightily relieved when Tuesday's AGM vote went 26-20 in favour of accepting the 2016/17 league constitution drawn up by the FA – with Weymouth Reserves included.

Had it gone the other way, he would have had to inform the FA that the league had voted against their wishes – and then sweated on the consequences.

As he tried to pacify some of the angriest clubs, including Hythe & Dibden, Blackfield & Langley and Laverstock & Ford, Hoare was honest enough to admit: "I don't want it either."

"I don't think it is right for this league."

"But there are standardised FA rules all the way down from the Conference (National League) and we have to implement them."

"Often we don't agree, but we have to work with the FA all the time."

"If clubs were to vote 'no' we could go back to the FA, but they will tell us we have to take Weymouth Reserves."

"They qualified for promotion through league position (third in the Dorset Premier) and ground grading and they are part of the system."

"They can play in our league but they will not have full membership rights."

Although Weymouth Reserves are a first for Wessex football, there are already several second string sides from higher league clubs at Step 6 and Step 5.

But unlike, say, Chippenham Town's reserves who go under the



Action from a Weymouth Reserves v Westland Sports game last season. Inset: Ian Hoare

name of Chippenham Park and play in the Western League Division One, Weymouth are at least being up front about being a reserve side.

"Weymouth Reserves are being honest by not playing under a false name," acknowledged Hoare.

Former Hampshire FA chairman John Ward, who still sits on the FA as chairman of the Leagues Committee, agreed: "It is better to be honest than fly under flags of convenience."

"Better to say you are a reserve side than come up with another name and register with the FA that way."

One reason for allowing reserve

sides in, said Ward, was to bolster flagging numbers at Step 6.

And he was pleased to report that this year the FA had received an encouraging 30 promotion applications from Step 7 clubs nationwide – the most ever.

One of the big fears among Wessex clubs was that Weymouth would be just the tip of the iceberg and, pretty soon, the league would be awash with reserve sides.

But Hoare and Ward stressed that a maximum of four could be housed in Wessex One and, under no circumstances, could they climb any higher.

Ward said: "We've got a number of reserve sides at Step 5 at the moment (e.g. Oxford City Nomads in the Hellenic Premier) but, if they get demoted, they will not be allowed back in."

"Reserve teams can play at Step 6 but there is a limitation on numbers."

"We understand (the argument against reserve sides) but the FA have got no reason to turn them down when they make an application."

"Whether it's time to look at the regulations again, maybe, but you have to realise that there's been a shortage of clubs at Step 6."

Todd pays tribute to late coach

EASTLEIGH boss Chris Todd has joined the tributes to former Exeter City manager Eamonn Dolan who passed away this week, aged 48.

Dolan, academy manager at Reading, died on Monday after losing his battle with cancer.

Dolan's playing career was cut short due to testicular cancer in 1993 when he was at Exeter, who he later went on to manage.

During his time at Reading, the Galway-born former Republic of Ireland under-21 international provided assistance to former managers Steve Coppell, Brendan Rodgers, Brian McDermott, Nigel Adkins and Steve Clarke.

He is credited with helping to bring through Shane Long, Kevin Doyle, Steve Sidwell and Wales' striker Hal Robson-Kanu.

Todd, pictured, who played more than 150 games for Exeter between 2003-2007, said: "He was a great guy. One of the nicest people you could meet in football."

He was always happy and always had nice things to say about people.

"He was a big part of my career, obviously, coming through Exeter's ranks and he'll sit deep in my memory, that's for sure."

"He was loved by everybody and there wasn't one person with a bad word to say about him."

"Even playing underneath him, everyone had gratitude towards the guy and he was a special guy."

"He'll go down in Exeter folklore, I'm sure, as he was such a great person and I can't speak highly enough about him."

"My thoughts go to his friends and family."

Saints striker Long tweeted: "Such an influential man in my career, & has always been a true friend. Still finding it hard to believe. Rest in peace, Eamonn."

Secretary

BOURNEMOUTH Poppies require a secretary for the upcoming Sydenhams Premier season.

Anyone interested in the position or requiring more information is asked to contact Mike Robins at bourneouthpoppiesfc@gmail.com or call 07812 430834.



Cutting edge gives Wales an advantage

WALES topped Group B at Euro 2016 after they beat Russia 3-0 and England could only manage a 0-0 draw against Slovakia.

With Gareth Bale scoring in every group game Chris Coleman's side face an easier passage in the Round of 16 than the Three Lions.

Here, the Sports Pink compares how England and Wales shape up following their qualification from Group B.

WALES' EARLY SHOW

In a tournament where so many of the goals have arrived late – the average opening goal has come in the 44th minute – Wales' ability to strike early has given them an advantage.

Of the first six goals scored in the first half an hour at Euro 2016 so far, the Welsh have netted half of them. They have spent 57.4 per cent of their time on the pitch in a winning position while England, by comparison, are one of 10 teams to have scored exclusively in the second half of their matches.

ENGLAND'S LACK OF PUNCH

The Three Lions dominated all their



Jack Wilshere clearly lacked match fitness against Slovakia

group games for long spells but failed to make it count. They averaged 19.3 shots and faced just 5.0 per match – second only to Portugal, who they could play in the next round.

In contrast, Wales are one of the most clinical finishers in France, taking just 5.7 shots for each of their six goals. The Welsh took an average of 11.3 shots per match and hit 7.7 efforts on target. It is the highest at the tournament so far and double the average of 3.8 – far better than England's average of 5.0.

ENGLAND'S CHANGES

Boss Roy Hodgson made six changes against Slovakia, including bringing in Jack Wilshere who clearly lacked match sharpness, and has been widely criticised following their failure to win.

Despite the reshuffle, England still registered more shots (26) and more on target (six) than in their previous two Group B matches.

Hodgson has used 19 different players, with only Ross Barkley and John Stones the outfield players yet to play – while Wales have used 18.

Saints keeper Fraser Forster is also awaiting his first appearance of the tournament – and he will probably have to keep waiting.

The grass isn't always

SAINTS fans have been used to seeing their top players leave in recent years for 'bigger' clubs.

Victor Wanyama appears to be the latest one, the midfielder on the verge of quitting St Mary's to link up again with Mauricio Pochettino at Tottenham.

Sadio Mane, meanwhile, continues to be linked with Liverpool.

None of the players who have left Saints in the last couple of years have so far enjoyed a superb time.

Rickie Lambert's Anfield career was short and not so sweet, while Adam Lallana, Dejan Lovren and Nathaniel Clyne are still waiting for the first winners' medals – and they also finished below their former employers last season.

Calum Chambers has struggled to get regular games at Arsenal, while Morgan Schneiderlin's first season at Old Trafford passed without his standing as a Premier League player improving.

Luke Shaw's first season at Manchester United was underwhelming, while a broken leg ruined most of his second one.

The grass, therefore, is not always greener.

For Saints, though, this is all nothing new. Ever since the club first arrived in the top flight in the mid 1960s, they have struggled to hold onto their better players.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at previous players who have quit Saints – and whether they found the grass greener.

Martin Chivers

A Saints star leaves to join Tottenham.

It was ever thus, was it not!

In January 1968, having scored 13 goals in 24 top flight games for Saints, England striker Chivers moved to White Hart Lane in a big money move.

The fee was £80,000. Not big money now, obviously, but it was 48 years ago.

Frank Saul made the move in the opposite direction, and he was valued at £45,000 – which is why, in some media, the Chivers fee is reported as £125,000.

Chivers went on to score 174 goals in all competitions for Tottenham in 367 appearances. He helped them win the League Cup in 1971 and 1973, and the UEFA Cup in 1972.

While at White Hart Lane, he won 24 England caps – having won England youth honours during his time with Saints.

The 1970–71 season was the start of Chivers' golden period.

He played in all 58 competitive games and scored 34 times that season, including both goals in the League Cup final against Aston Villa, and 21 goals in the First Division as Spurs finished the season in third place.

Chivers also scored his first senior goal for England a 3-0 win over Greece in April 1971.



Martin Chivers, left, and Mick Channon – different fortunes after leaving Saints.



Steve Williams, left, and Danny Wallace both left Saints in the 1980s after making their England debuts

During the 1971–72 campaign, Chivers hammered 44 goals in 64 first team appearances – including a double in the UEFA Cup final win against Wolves.

Grass always greener? Yes.

Mick Channon

Back in the summer of 1977, England striker Channon left Second Division Saints to join Manchester



City.

At the time, City had just finished runners-up in the top flight to Liverpool – and thought the £300,000 splashed out on Channon would help them go one better.

The move didn't work out as either player or club hoped.

Channon would score just 12 goals in his first season and 11 in his second at Maine Road – compared to the regular 20-plus he had netted

for Saints.

And City would not seriously challenge for the title in either of his two campaigns.

The striker was 28 when he moved to City, but won the last of his 46 England caps just a few weeks after leaving The Dell.

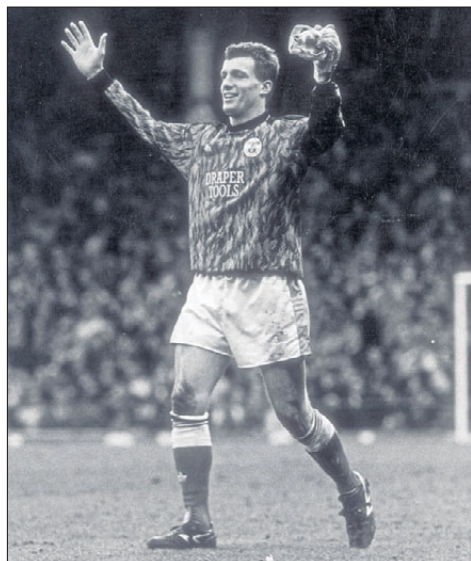
Channon returned to The Dell in September 1979 and continued to play regularly until he left at the end of the 1981/82 season.

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s greener elsewhere!



Andy Townsend, left, and Alan Shearer both discovered that the grass can be greener after leaving The Dell.



Tim Flowers, left, enjoyed better luck than Richard Hall after leaving Saints.

Towards the end of his career, Channon won his second domestic cup winners' medal.

He will forever be remembered in Southampton for the role he played in the club landing the 1976 FA Cup final. Nine years on, he was part of the Norwich City team that beat Sunderland 1-0 to win the League Cup.

The Canaries were relegated from the top flight at the end of that season.

Grass always greener. No

Steve Williams

Was handed his debut by Lawrie McMenemy aged just 17 in the 1975/76 Second Division season.

It was no low key debut either – the London-born midfielder thrown into the red-hot atmosphere of a league derby at Fratton Park!

Williams was handed his debut



in place of Peter Osgood, who had been left out for disciplinary reasons in the wake of Saints' FA Cup semi final win over Crystal Palace.

Despite his age, Williams went on to become a regular in the 1976/77 season – ending his first full season with the Saints' Player of the Season award and England under-21 recognition.

Williams was a regular in Saints' first season back in the top flight, 1978/79, and was a regular member

of the team – making almost 300 appearances in all competitions – right up until his departure for £550,000 to Arsenal in December 1994.

The player had won the first of his six England caps in the summer of 1983, but he never added to his total after moving to Highbury.

Williams spent three full seasons with the Gunners, and won the only medal of his pro career when Arsenal beat Liverpool 2-1 to lift the 1986/87 League Cup.

Williams fell out of favour under George Graham midway through the following season, and left to join Luton Town in the summer of 1988.

Grass always greener? No

Andy Townsend

After three years at The Dell – after Lawrie McMenemy had signed him from non leaguers Weymouth for £35,000 – Townsend decided to join Norwich for £300,000 in the summer of 1988 after falling out with boss Chris Nicholl. He impressed at Carrow Road so much that Chelsea paid £1.2m to sign him two years later.

The Republic of Ireland star continued to rise, along with his value, and in the summer of 1993 he moved again to Aston Villa for £2.1m.

He twice won the League Cup during his time at Villa Park – in 1994 and again two years later, when he skippered the Midlanders.

Grass always greener? Yes

Danny Wallace

Another Londoner, Wallace had been handed his first Saints appearance as a 16-year-old in November 1980.

And as with Steve Williams, Lawrie McMenemy chose an intimidating atmosphere in which to give Wallace his bow – Old Trafford.

The winger was to become a key member of the Saints side that finished runners-up in the 1983/84 First Division.

That was the year he won the BBC TV goal of the season award for an overhead kick in a 2-0 Friday night win over Liverpool at The Dell.

Wallace went on to make his senior England debut in the 1985/86 season, scoring on his debut in a 4-0 friendly win in Egypt. He never played for his country again.

After over 250 appearances for Saints – featuring 64 goals – Wallace was signed by Manchester United early in the 1989/90 season for a seven-figure sum. Fergie needed someone to play on the left wing following the departure of Jesper Olsen and the disappointing form of Ralph Milne.

Wallace, though, never quite lived up to the hype he enjoyed at The Dell.

Like Williams, he did win his first domestic medal after leaving Saints – appearing for United in the 1990 FA Cup final.

Continued on page 16

NI deserve last-16 spot

NORTHERN Ireland finished third in Euro 2016 Group C after losing 1-0 to Germany in Paris.

Mario Gomez got the only goal thanks mainly to goalkeeper Michael McGovern who produced brilliant saves to deny Thomas Muller, Mario Gotze and Gomez.

Here, the Sports Pink considers four key issues arising from the Parc des Princes encounter.

IRELAND WON'T BE OUT OF PLACE IN THE LAST 16

Ranked by the bookies as the worst team in the competition – or least likely to win it, anyway – they are fully deserving of the knockouts.

They showed they could win a game against Ukraine and here against the Germans they fought for their lives. They were second best, comfortably and on every metric imaginable. But so they should have been against the world champions.

They are authentic underdogs and will continue to fight for their lives for as long as they are able.

THE GAWA WERE GLAD SIMPLY TO BE HERE

Michael O'Neill and his proud players were never going to settle for merely being part of the tournament, but the same cannot be said of their fans.

This was a party 30 years in the



Steven Davis battles for possession with Mesut Ozil

making for some of international football's most committed supporters and they were never going to do anything other than enjoy.

Win, lose or draw they were here to sing, dance and register their admiration for the team's efforts.

WASHINGTON NEEDS SUPPORT

QPR striker Conor Washington came up through the leagues the hard way and is game for a challenge. But this was an ask too far.

He played with his back to goal for the majority of the match, often staring back at 40 yards of clear space separating him from his team-mates.

If Ireland are to progress they must find someone to play closer to their number nine.

DAVIS NEEDS TO BE ON THE BALL

Ireland skipper Steven Davis was their all-round MVP in qualifying and has been an important player for Saints for the last couple of seasons.

When he shines, the side generally do too but he was lost in the shuffle for too long against Germany.

He became just another midfield body at times but one lung-busting give-and-go up the pitch after 56 minutes showed the impact he can have.

Zlatan among stars leaving Euros early

WITH the group stages at an end, eight of the 24 teams who started at Euro 2016 are heading home, some expectedly and others less so.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at a starting XI of stars who are heading for the departure gate.

(4-3-3)

GK: PETR CECCH (Czech Republic)

The Arsenal goalkeeper has a distinguished record at domestic and international level but conceded five goals as the Czechs disappointed.

RB: GOKHAN GONUL (Turkey)

The Fenerbahce full-back has been linked with a big summer move, with Barcelona reportedly interested, and did himself no harm in France with some tidy displays.

CB: VASIL BEREZUTSKY (Russia)

Scored the last-minute equaliser against England and captained an injury-ravaged side to the best of his ability.

CB: VLAD CHIRICHES (Romania)

Romania were flat throughout their stay at the Euros but Napoli defender Chiriches at least offered some defensive steel at the back.

LB: CHRISTIAN FUCHS (Austria)

After the highs of Leicester's Premier League title win came the lows of a group stage exit with his country.



Zlatan Ibrahimovic was among the early leavers at Euro 2016

CM: DAVID ALABA (Austria)

An authentic rising star with Bayern Munich, the 23-year-old was unable to bring his best to the competition with his country seemingly unsure of how or where to maximise his talents.

CM: ARDA TURAN (Turkey)

Like Alaba, Turan is making his name with one of the biggest institutions in the game, in his case Barcelona. But his failure to fire was a big reason for Turkey's exit here.

CM: MARKO ARNAUTOVIC (Austria)

Showed little hints of his technical qualities – a neat flick here, an instinctive touch there – but will know he might have done more to prolong his stay.

FW: BOGDAN STANCU (Romania)

Scored from the penalty spot in each of his side's first two matches but could not find a way past Albania in the decisive fixture.

FW: ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC (Sweden)

The likely end of the enigma's international career and he went out with a whimper. The knockout phase will be poorer for his X factor, on and off the field, though.

FW: ANDRIY YARMOLENKO (Ukraine)

Fancied by many to play an eye-catching role in the first round and press his claims for a big move, the winger tried to take centre stage but could not find his cue.

Different fortunes for

from page 15

He started to fall out of favour the following season, 1990/91, due to the emergence of young winger Lee Sharpe.

In 1991-92 Ryan Giggs burst onto the scene at Old Trafford and Wallace was now firmly out of the first team picture, failing to make a single appearance in the league all season.

In December 1991 he was put on the transfer list and linked with a return to Saints, but it never happened and, following a loan spell at Millwall, Wallace left Old Trafford in October 1993 to sign for Birmingham City.

In all, he only made 47 appearances for United and scored six goals.

Grass always greener? No.

Rod Wallace

Wallace moved from Saints to Leeds in the summer of 1991 for £1.6m.

The pacy striker had been a regular scorer for the club since making his debut in 1988, scoring 21 goals in all competitions in 1989/90.

He made an instant impact at Elland Road, helping Leeds win the 1991/92 First Division title – the last one before it was rebranded as the Premier League.

Wallace was second top league scorer with 11 goals, behind Lee Chapman (16).

In the penultimate game of the season, Wallace scored the winner as Leeds won 3-2 at Sheffield United. Later the same day, Manchester United lost at Anfield and Leeds were crowned champions.

Wallace then scored the only goal in the last game of the season at home to Norwich.

In all, he scored 53 goals in 212 appearances for Leeds before moving on to Glasgow Rangers in the summer of 1998.

He was a smash hit in his first season at Ibrox, too, hitting 27 goals as Rangers clinched a domestic treble. The following season, 1999/2000, they did the double.

After 41 goals in 78 league and cup games for the Scottish giants, the Londoner returned to England in 2001 to sign for Bolton.

Grass always greener? Yes

Neil Ruddock

Ruddock, having left Tottenham in 1988 to sign for Millwall, moved to The Dell in 1989 for £200,000.

Three years later, ahead of the first ever Premier League campaign, he was enticed back to White Hart Lane by Terry Venables.

The fee was set by a tribunal, which ordered Spurs to pay £750,000 for the player.

Ruddock only spent one season at Spurs, though, prior to moving onto Liverpool.

He made 115 appearances in five years at Anfield, but won just one piece of silverware – the 1995 League Cup.



Wayne Bridge left Saints for the riches of Chelsea in 2003.



Victor Wanyama this week became the latest Saints player to quit for London riches.

After his colourful football career had finished, Ruddock found national fame as a reality TV contestant.

Grass always greener? No

Alan Shearer

In the summer of 1992, prior to the first ever Premier League campaign, newly promoted Blackburn Rovers signed Saints striker Shearer for £3.6m.

That doesn't sound a huge sum by today's standards, does it?

But back then it was a new British record transfer fee, for a player who had never been a hugely prolific scorer for Saints – 23 goals in 118 appearances.

Three of those had come in his first start as a teenager against Arsenal at The Dell in April 1988.

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or Wallace brothers



Former Saints defender Dejan Lovren - one classic example that the grass isn't always greener on the other side.



Morgan Schneiderlin, left, didn't set the Premier League alight during his debut season at Old Trafford.

He had already made his England international debut while at The Dell, scoring in a 2-0 friendly win against France in February 1992.

He had gone to the European Championships in 1992 with Graham Taylor's England, but had made just one start.

Even though Rovers were freshly

promoted, and Saints were an established top flight club, no one thought Shearer was taking a 'step backwards' in moving north.

Rovers were the 'moneybags' club of the early Premier League era, bankrolled by owner Sir Jack Walker.

Shearer was to flourish after leav-

ing the south coast.

Though he missed half of his first season at Ewood Park due to injury, he still fired 16 goals in 21 appearances.

The following season, 1993/94, he struck 31 league goals as Blackburn finished second.

And in 1994/95, he hammered

what remains a Premier League record 34 goals as Rovers pipped Manchester United to the title.

In the summer of 1996 - following an impressive showing for England in the Euros - Shearer joined Newcastle for £15m.

At the time, it was the biggest transfer fee ever in world football.

Newcastle were bringing Shearer 'back home' and boss Kevin Keegan saw him as the missing piece in his title-winning jigsaw.

It didn't work out like that, though, and Shearer was never to win another medal in his career.

He remains the highest scorer in Premier League history with 260 goals.

In all, he scored 206 league and cup goals for Newcastle - more than anyone else in history - from 395 appearances.

He announced his retirement at the end of the 2005/06 season.

Grass always greener? Yes

Tim Flowers

Flowers had established himself as one of the best goalkeepers in the Premier League when he joined Blackburn in November 1993.

He had won the first of his 11 England caps while at The Dell in a friendly against Brazil in America in the summer of 1993.

When he moved to Ewood Park for £2.4m, he became the first expensive goalkeeper in British football history.

Flowers had made 192 appearances for Saints, following his move from Wolves in 1986. It was the most games he would play for any club in his career.

Flowers helped Blackburn finish runners-up in his first season in Lancashire, before he was part of Kenny Dalglish's side that won the Premier League in 1994/95.

He moved to Leicester in 1999, following Rovers' relegation from the top flight, and collected a League Cup winners' medal in his first season with the Foxes.

Grass always greener? Yes

Richard Hall

After five years as a first team regular, centre half Hall signed for Harry Redknapp in the summer of 1996 for £1.5m.

His career at Upton Park never really got off the ground, though.

Injured in his first pre season, he didn't make his competitive debut for the Hammers until April 1997. In all, injury restricted him to just eight first team appearances in three years before he finally retired from the game aged just 27 in 1999.

Grass always greener? No

Kevin Davies

Eyebrows were raised when Davies, just 21, followed the path previously taken by Alan Shearer and Tim Flowers in swapping The Dell for Ewood Park. *Cont on page*

Look back at Irish win

ROBBIE Brady ensured the Republic of Ireland's Euro 2016 adventure extended beyond the group stage when he headed them to a famous victory over Italy in Lille. Here, the *Sports Pink* takes a look at five things we learned at the Stade Pierre Mauroy.

STAYING POWER

Brady's 85th-minute winner against Italy was by no means the first late contribution to the campaign, and manager Martin O'Neill insisted it could be no coincidence after Aiden McGeady in Georgia, John O'Shea in Germany and Shane Long against Poland all scored priceless last-gasp goals during qualification. That is testament to Ireland's commitment, desire and refusal to accept their fate.

MISSION POSSIBLE

Assistant manager Roy Keane insisted in the run-up to the Italy game that victory on a night when nothing else would do was a far from impossible task, and his confidence proved well-founded. The Republic proved that they can produce under extreme pressure.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Shay Given, John O'Shea and Robbie



Manager Martin O'Neill (right) and assistant Roy Keane celebrate.

Keane have a combined total of 389 caps for Ireland, but the 40-year-old keeper and his 35-year-old team-mates were not involved in Lille. But with the likes of Brady, Seamus Coleman, James McCarthy and Jeff Hendrick fast-emerging, a new generation has been blooded at the highest level and not found wanting.

HEND OF GOD

Derby midfielder Hendrick's performances against Sweden and Italy demonstrated he has both the ability and temperament to make it on the big stage. Former boss Giovanni Trapattoni's assistant Marco Tardelli has revealed he has gone as far as recommending the 24-year-old to several Italian clubs, while Robbie Keane has admitted he advised Tottenham to sign him four years ago.

B-TEAM BLUES

Italy arrived in Lille having already assured themselves of top spot in Group E and with manager Antonio Conte keen to have a look at some of his squad players as he rested big names.

But of the eight changes he made, few took their chance with only front two Simone Zaza and Ciro Immobile of the starters threatening to influence the game.

McIlroy drops Rio bid over Zika concern

RORY McIlroy has decided not to compete at this summer's Olympics in Rio due to fears over the Zika virus.

The world number four is one of a number of high-profile golfers to pull out, with Adam Scott, Louis Oosthuizen, Charl Schwartzel, Marc Leishman and Vijay Singh having already said they will not travel to Brazil.

Here are some facts about the disease:

What is Zika?

Zika is a mosquito-borne virus which was first identified in rhesus monkeys in Uganda in 1947 and moved to humans in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania in 1952.

How is the virus transmitted?

It is spread by the Aedes mosquito, which usually bites during the day. Zika can also be transmitted from person to person through sexual contact. Other modes of transmission, such as blood transfusion and perinatal transmission, are currently being investigated.

What does Zika do?

The main concern from Zika is the threat to babies in the womb. Zika is now known to be a cause of microcephaly, where babies are born with abnormally small heads due to the fact their brains have not developed properly. Microcephaly can cause



Rory McIlroy has decided not to go to the Rio Olympics.

serious developmental problems and death in some cases.

What are the symptoms of Zika?

The majority of people show no sign of infection and for those who do display symptoms they are usually mild and last two to seven days. Symptoms include fever, itching, conjunctivitis, red and sore eyes, headaches, rashes and joint pain. A disorder of the nervous system known as Guillain-Barre syndrome has also been linked to the infection.

What can people do to protect themselves?

There is currently no vaccine against Zika. The best protection is to take steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Official health advice says people should use insect repellents, cover up with long-sleeved clothing and keep windows and doors closed. Still water and stagnant water such as in buckets and ponds also attracts mosquitoes to lay their eggs.

Which countries are affected?

Outbreaks of the disease have been recorded in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific. So far 64 countries and territories have reported occurrences of the virus since 2007. There is currently widespread transmission in much of Central and South America, including Brazil which has "increasing or widespread transmission".

Lots of promise, but

ENGLAND. England. England. Where do you start?

THERE'S so much promise and so much to be positive about.

But in the end England are still the same old England. The same old England at a major international tournament.

Roy Hodgson's side look so often on the edge of flourishing into brilliance.

They are so close to being excellent, but always with a tinge of disappointment – mainly in front of goal.

Now there can be no doubt that they could well be on the verge of another early exit, which partly – okay, mostly – they have to blame themselves for.

Finishing second to Wales in Group B and drawing 0-0 with Slovakia has not only shoved a gloomy cloud over the Three Lions but also shoved in their way – in their side of the draw – hosts France, world champions Germany and the over-flowing with talent Spain.

Great.

Although they have been handed a favourable – and exciting – last 16 tie on Monday night against plucky outsiders Iceland, who finished above Portugal in Group F.

The other side of the draw in which former Saints man Gareth Bale and Wales head into includes what could well be in comparison a fairly easy run to the semi-finals.

But this is the England way, isn't it?

You just have to look at what Wales have done to see where England have failed.

Firstly, well, they've got a world class player in Bale. England don't have a player on that level. He has the ability to produce that moment of magic that can cut the difference between progress and being knocked out, winning and losing, drawing 0-0 with a rubbish team, drawing 1-1 with an even worse team or putting the frighteners on your neighbours.

Through Bale, Wales have the ability to unlock opposition where England simply can't.

England have played some pretty football. It looks nice, but the ultimate aim of football isn't to look pretty it's to win games and score goals.

The Russia result did, on the face of it, look fairly good for England, but the way Wales dismantled them really put in perspective how bad the 1-1 draw was in reality. England wasted chance after chance to thrash them in Marseille in the opening game.

Where England failed, Wales succeeded as they battered Russia with ease – although Leonid Slutsky's side were completely pants in reality and England should have without a doubt beaten them.

The Russia game was a massive window of opportunity to top the



Saints defender Ryan Bertrand in action against Slovakia's Robert Mak during Monday's 0-0 Euro 2016 stalemate



Former Saints starlet Gareth Bale celebrates scoring Wales' third goal of the game against Russia

group and put themselves into the "easy" side of the draw.

But nope, they did an England on that one.

Wales meanwhile were beating Slovakia 2-1, with Bale and Hal Robson-Kanu on target.

England did beat Wales, but only

by the skin of their teeth.

The Three Lions were always favourites for the Wales game and they finally did prevail in a match played at a Premier League pace.

That Wales result did put something else in perspective...what is Roy Hodgson playing at with his

tactics and substitutions?

Hodgson was hailed for bringing on two of the Premier League best goalscorers Daniel Sturridge and Jamie Vardy at half time.

It worked as well with both of them scoring to win the game for England. Brilliant.

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t we're still England



Former Saints defender Nathaniel Clyne was called up for the 0-0 Euro 2016 draw with Slovakia in St Etienne on Monday



Saints midfielder Steven Davis in action during Northern Ireland's Euro 2016 win over Ukraine

But for some reason that victory bizarrely gave Hodgson a license to make a SIX changes for the Slovakia game.

Perhaps it would be better if England had fewer quality options like Wales. Would Roy have dropped Bale if he was Wales manager for example?

Saints man Ryan Bertrand and former St Mary's defender Nathaniel Clyne replaced Danny Rose and Kyle Walker in the full-back positions.

There was nothing wrong with those changes, they are basically like for like.

There is no difference in quality

between any of those players.

Up top, Hodgson started Vardy and Sturridge in the place of the underperforming Raheem Sterling and the supposedly knackered Harry Kane.

Again, there's nothing wrong with that. They both did well and scored against Wales, so they

probably deserved a chance and Kane probably deserved a rest.

But then, in midfield, we come to the sticking point.

If this was a warm-up game or a friendly, fine, play Jack Wilshere, he clearly needs some game-time to get back to fitness and form.

Fine do that in a friendly. Fine do that in a qualifier.

But at a major tournament? At a major tournament where England seemed to be gaining some momentum? At a major tournament where every margin needs to be scrutinised to your advantage?

WHY!

That move was ridiculous in my eyes.

These tournaments come along ever few years and to play an unfit player in what is a huge game is insanity.

Jordan Henderson completed the changes and in reality he didn't do to badly, except he couldn't find a team-mate with any of the corners he took.

Hodgson shot himself in the foot really.

England dominated against Slovakia, but could only load their rifle with blanks as the Three Lions created well but were found wanting in front of goal.

Slovakia did well, they battled excellently for their point and fair play to them, but England have preemptively shot themselves in the foot.

I appreciate that was a rant full of negativity but it could have been so much more straightforward for England.

Yes, they are through, but they should have won the group.

Yes, they're in the last 16, but they are now in no doubt on the wrong side of the draw.

Northern Ireland meanwhile squeezed through as one of the third place teams – boy what a story.

Everyone loves an underdog and Northern Ireland absolutely ooze everything you want in an underdog.

Odds defying victories, and the ridiculously catchy Will Grigg song for a start.

All the romance is there.

And their fans are having an absolute part, enjoying every second of it.

Perhaps, unlike England who are constantly loaded up – fairly or unfairly – with pressure to go far in these tournaments, Northern Ireland are playing with a freedom that reflects a team without pressure.

To even qualify is an impressive achievement, as Saints man and Northern Ireland captain Steven Davis has always reflected.

The players and the fans are just out there to enjoy every minute and to have moved into the last 16 alone is just outstanding.

The Northern Irish face Wales on Saturday evening, which will be set to be an incredible party atmosphere. **Continued on page 20**

Big names that have shunned Rio

GOLF superstar Rory McIlroy is certainly the biggest name to pull out of this summer's Olympics in Rio because of concerns over the Zika virus but he is not the first.

Here are the other would-be Olympians to decide to stay away for health reasons, and a few of those who are thinking about it.

Vijay Singh – The Fijian golfer was the first to confirm he would be swerving Rio because of fears over the mosquito-borne illness that is linked to birth defects in newborn babies. The 53-year-old was one of the best players in the world a decade or so ago but has not won a tournament since 2008. The fact that he also said he wanted to work out the kinks in his game in the relative comfort of the US pro circuit have prompted some to wonder just how much of a factor Zika really was in his decision.

Marc Leishman – There are no such suspicions around the 32-year-old Australian golfer's decision to withdraw from Olympic consideration, as Leishman almost lost his wife to toxic shock syndrome last year and she is still prone to infection. A former US PGA Rookie of the Year, Leishman tied for second place at the Open last year. His announcement last month was received with much more sympathy than the likes of Louis Oosthuizen and Adam Scott, who have said they are not going to Rio either because they are too busy playing golf elsewhere.

Tejay van Garderen – The 27-year-old American cyclist became the first non-golfer to say he would not be going because of



Marc Leishman won't be going to the Rio Olympics

risks associated with the Zika virus earlier this month. The bumpy course in Rio might have suited Van Garderen but his wife is pregnant and he said that had to be his "priority", particularly as he is young enough to get another Olympic chance in 2020.

Hope Solo – The goalkeeper for the dominant US women's football team, Solo has been agonising over this all year. The 34-year-old double Olympic champion initially said she would not go to Rio because of Zika's spread but has more recently said she will go " begrudgingly" and probably not leave her hotel room unless she has to. Solo is not the only American soccer star to feel this way, as Alex Morgan, the team's striker, has said not knowing how long the virus can stay in your system is "kind of scary".

Greg Rutherford – Morgan's fears about the long-term threat the virus poses to those thinking about having children are shared by the defending Olympic long jump champion. The 29-year-old Brit has said his family will not be coming to Rio, and revealed that he has frozen a sample of his sperm because he and his partner would like more children.

The Kenyan team – Earlier this year, the boss of Kenya's Olympic committee Kip Keino said they would not send any athletes to Brazil if the problem reached "epidemic levels". Officials later played down this suggestion and more recently Kenya's involvement in Rio has been threatened by concerns over its anti-doping record. But public health experts have repeatedly made the point that poorer nations are at much greater risk from the spread of Zika than wealthy countries.

The underdog stories are just great

from page 19

The Welsh again are riding the crest of a wave of excitement after finishing top of Group B and they are also in the mood to party.

Such a contrast to the England at this stage who could be seen hanging their heads after qualifying second.

The underdog stories don't end there because Shane Long and the Republic of Ireland stunned Graziano Pelle and Italy in a 1-0 victory to squeeze through to the last 16, where they will face hosts France.

The fact that teams like Iceland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Republic of Ireland are able to have a crack at the knockout stages makes the increase to a 24-team roster an excellent decision.

Yes, there is an argument for the fact that you're not seeing the creme de la creme at the finals of the tournament, which takes away from the whole spectacle.

But the spectacle is being added to by all these underdog stories, upsetting the apple cart.

The prime of example of that being Real Madrid superstar Cristiano Ronaldo throwing his toys out the pram after Portugal were held by Iceland in a 1-1 draw.



Saints striker Graziano Pelle, right, at an Italian training session.

Ronaldo accused them of having a "small mentality".

An utterly ridiculous statement considering the whole of Iceland has the same population of Leicester.

This is what this bigger tournament throws up and it's so damn exciting to watch.

The Republic of Ireland pulled off their remarkable fairytale by beating the Italians, one of the traditional giants of world football, with a late Robbie Brady goal.

The outpouring of emotion was clear to see as they put behind them a torrid tournament back in 2012 when they exited in miserable fashion after losing all three groups game in which they conceded nine and scored just one.

It in 2012 they also played Italy in their final group game, but this time around they atoned for that horrendous campaign.

Pelle and the Azzurri face Spain in the next round on Monday evening.

Long and the Republic of Ireland's progress meant that all seven Saints men at Euro 2016 progressed to the last 16.

Cedric Soares and Jose Fonte have both been unused in Portugal's pretty lame campaign so far and will likely watch on from the bench again as Fernando Santos' side face Croatia on Saturday night.

England stepping up

ENGLAND are intensifying penalty practice ahead of the Euro 2016 knockout stages.

Skipper Wayne Rooney is honing his technique by trying to beat the goalkeeper after telling him where he is putting it.

Monday's last-16 clash with Iceland is the Three Lions' first knockout match at a major tournament since Euro 2012, when they exited to Italy at the quarter-final juncture.

That was England's sixth defeat in seven penalty shoot-outs and has understandably led the issue to come into focus ahead of the trip to the Stade de Nice.

England's sole penalty shoot-out success remains the Euro 96 quarter final victory over Spain at Wembley.

Against that, in addition to the Italian defeat, they have lost to Germany in the semi finals of Italia 90 and Euro 96, as well as to Portugal in both Euro 2004 and the 2006 World Cup, and to Argentina in the 1998 World Cup.

Rooney, now at his sixth major tournament, was quick to point out that none of the 23-man squad have missed a spot-kick in a shoot-out, although they have stepped up practice ahead of Monday's match.

"Now we are in the knockout stages I'm sure we will practice a lot more as a group rather than players going up individually - practice as a group in case it comes and we need them," he said.

"It's a nervous moment. I remember in the last Euros against Italy. As I've said before, I always know which way I'm going and (Gianluigi) Buffon was actually pointing and telling me he knows I'm going that way.

"He was right, so then I started wondering if I should go the other way. But I ended up the going the same way but he dived the other way.

"Just by a goalkeeper pointing one way, it can knock you off. But you have to be confident in what you have practised."

It underlines how much penalty-taking is as much about mental strength as technique and Rooney attempts to replicate that match scenario during practice.

The country's all-time top scorer spoke of the importance of getting into the rhythm of finding a corner and is telling England's goalkeepers - including Saints ace Fraser Forster - where he is placing it to make it as difficult as possible during training.

"Whatever corner I am going for I tell the goalkeeper, so that makes it harder for me," Rooney said.

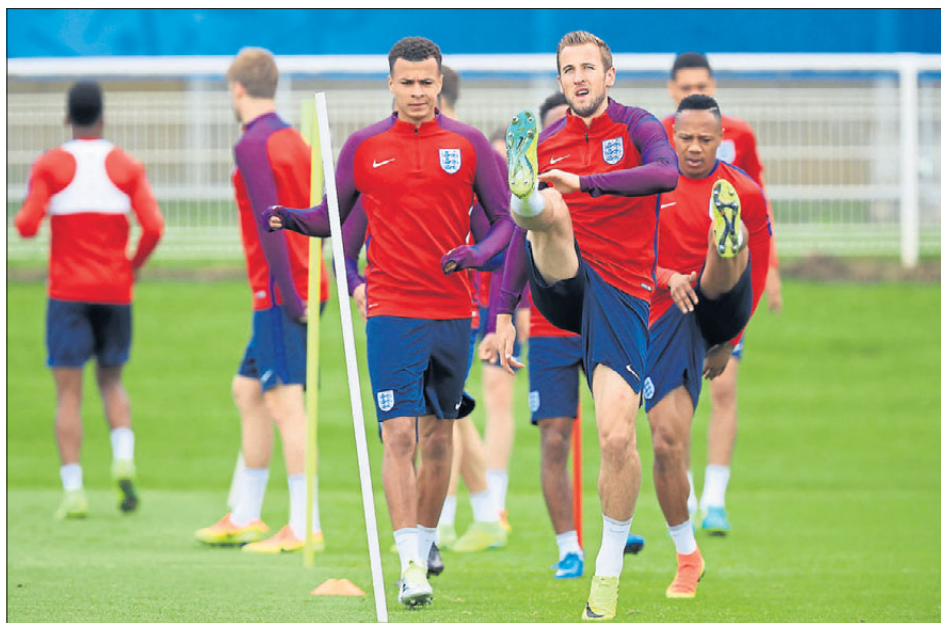
"If he can't save it, despite knowing which way I am going, there are no worries for me in taking them.

"It's more difficult, but if he doesn't save it, it's fine."

● Harry Kane is ready to be called upon when needed by Roy Hodgson



Wayne Rooney has been practising penalties ahead of England's last 16 tie with Iceland on Monday.



Harry Kane and Dele Alli train ahead of Monday's tie with Iceland.

as England prepare to face Iceland on Monday.

The Tottenham striker started England's first two games in the tournament - being substituted at half-time against Wales - before coming off the bench in the final Group B game against Slovakia.

But he has no problem with Hodg-

son's use of his squad as England look towards their last-16 tie.

"It's part of the tournament, we have a great squad of players and use everyone in it in the right way," he said.

"Not many teams will play the starting XI throughout the whole tournament.

"As players we need to be ready when called upon and I think we are. Anyone who steps in or out is focused on the team. If it changes then we are ready for that and go out there for the win."

Kane played a full part as Tottenham challenged Leicester for the Premier League title and reached

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penalty practice



Gareth Southgate dejected after England's Euro 96 penalty defeat to Germany.



Italy's Andre Pirlo scores to knock England out of Euro 2012.

the Round of 16 in the Europa League, but insisted he had plenty left in the tank for England.

"I'm not tired, I've had it before last year when it was the Under-21s to the Euros, people said the same thing," he said.

"I'm 100 per cent fresh. I feel sharp, I feel ready and if called upon I will be

out there giving 110 per cent.

"We want to progress, now is a better time than ever. We have to make sure we are focused and ready to go, hopefully maybe with a bit of luck and a bit of fortune we will win the game comfortably."

The 22-year-old also believes that England can take their chances against Ice-

land and progress further in the competition

"We've not scored as many goals as we should have. We've had a lot of chances that we probably should have done better with. It's part of the game, not every game we're not going to find the back of the net three or four times.

"We've been patient, we have been the better team against every team we've played and now we are in knockout stages, it is about putting them goals in, scoring as many as we can and keeping them clean sheets as well.

"We fancy ourselves against anyone and we're confident in our ability."

● UEFA's chief refereeing officer Pierluigi Collina believes the newly-implemented pre-match analysis has helped produce a higher level of officiating at Euro 2016.

There have been few major refereeing controversies during the 36 group matches in France, while the average number of yellow cards has dropped from 4.04 per match four years ago to 3.58 this time around.

The accuracy of decisions has remained consistent and Collina has been pleased with the refereeing on display, which he believes is down in no small part to the introduction of recently-introduced pre-match analysis.

It was still a novel practice when the Italian did it at the 2002 World Cup final, but has become more widespread since then and led UEFA's refereeing chief to formalise it for Euro 2016.

"We are always trying to improve the standard of their performances and we thought that this is possible if the referee knows more about the match they are going to referee," Collina said.

"I am convinced that if you are one step ahead, if you know before what can happen, you are ready.

"If you are ready, it is very possible you are correct. If you don't know what is going to happen and if you are surprised by something, it is very probable that you will be wrong.

"We cannot accept an excuse from a referee like 'sorry, I was wrong because I didn't expect what was going to happen'. They must know before what is going to happen."

UEFA is doing that at Euro 2016 by briefing referees about the teams during before the match.

A pair of coaches analyse the countries' recent games and officials have an hour with one of them, when they are briefed about how the teams will play.

Tactics and characteristics of individuals are highlighted, with officials given a presentation showing shapes of play, analysis of set pieces, statistics and video clips.

Collina says there is no particular focus on simulation, but individuals are highlighted so that referees can be "more careful" in matches.

The Italian has been impressed by its impact so far at Euro 2016 and is considering taking it into other UEFA competitions.

"It's working very well so we are thinking of course to implement them in other competitions."

Is the grass always greener for players who leave Saints?

from page 17

Davies had only been at Saints for one season – after joining from Chesterfield for £750,000, after helping the third tier club reach the semi-finals of the FA Cup – and £7.5m was a huge fee for someone so young.

It was a disastrous move. Davies only scored once in 24 Premier League games – only half of which he actually started – as Rovers were relegated.

The player returned to Saints for £1.2m just 12 months after leaving the club.

He was to stay four years before leaving again – this time being given a free transfer by Gordon Strachan.

Grass always greener?
No

Dean Richards

When he left Saints to follow Glenn Hoddle to Tottenham in 2001 for £8.1m, it was the highest fee ever paid for a player who was not a full international.

Richards had impressed in his two years at The Dell having been signed from Wolves.

Sadly, injuries hampered his progress at White Hart Lane and he was forced to retire for health reasons in 2005 not long after his 30th birthday. He died six years later, in February 2011, due to illness.

Grass always greener?
No

Wayne Bridge

The Winchester-born left back made his debut for Saints on the opening day of the 1998/99 Premier League season.

He would go on to establish himself in the first team, making his senior England international debut in early 2002 and going to the following summer's World Cup. Bridge was to establish a Premier League record, since beaten, of 113 successive league appearances – from March 2000 until January 2003.

His last appearance for Saints was in the 2003 FA Cup final, and he joined Chelsea for £7m two months later.

Roman Abramovich had just taken over at Stamford Bridge and Bridge was one of the Blues' first big money signings as a result of the Russian arriving.

Bridge won a Premier League medal in 2004/05, Jose Mourinho's first season in charge, though he suffered a serious knee injury in February 2005 and didn't play again that season.

He didn't make a single league appearance in 2005/06, when Chelsea retained the title, and fell behind Ashley Cole in the left back pecking order when his fellow England

international arrived in west London in the summer of 2006.

Cole's injury let Bridge back in, though, and he ended the season with two cup winners' medals in the League Cup and FA Cup.

Bridge moved onto Manchester City for £10m in January 2009, but was only to make 42 appearances for the club in four years.

The arrivals in 2010 of Aleksander Kolarov and, 12 months later, Gael Clichy pushed Bridge down the pecking order – something he was becoming accustomed to.

Grass always greener?
Yes, in terms of winning trophies. No, in terms of regular first team football.

James Beattie

The golden boy of Saints joined Everton shortly after the January transfer window opened for around £6m.

At the time, the move made sense – Saints were struggling and Everton were going well under David Moyes.



Former Saints striker James Beattie.

Indeed, Saints ended the season relegated and Everton finished fourth, qualifying for the Champions League for the first (and so far only) time.

Beattie ended his first season at Goodison Park with two goals from 13 appearances, scoring his first goal on his return to St Mary's.

Yet he was to net only 13 league goals in all for the Blues, prior to leaving in the summer of 2007 to join Championship club Sheffield United.

He struck 11 times in 38 appearances in his first full season, 2005/06 – including a Champions League qualifying round goal against Villarreal. But the Toffees were unable to progress to the group stages.

Beattie only netted twice in 35 appearances in 2006/07.

As it turned out, therefore, his best Premier League days were with Saints – including the memorable 2002/03 campaign with he belted 23 league goals and made his senior England international debut.

Grass always greener?
No.

Four decades on, reliving Panenka's amazing penalty

THE famous Panenka penalty kick was forged out of years of practice and earned its creator plenty of loose change and chocolate long before it gained him football immortality.

Czechoslovakia were 4-3 up in the shoot-out at the end of a keenly-fought European Championship final against West Germany at the Red Star Stadium in Belgrade on June 20, 1976, when Uli Hoeness ballooned the Germans' fourth penalty over the crossbar.

That left Antonin Panenka the chance to win it with the Czechs' fifth and final spot-kick.

"I knew two months before the Euros that (a shoot-out) was going to happen," he said this week in an interview to mark the 40th anniversary of his audacious kick.

"We knew that we could get Holland or Germany or Yugoslavia - all teams who were strong - and we knew we would probably meet them. We knew it would go to penalties too, so yes, we were prepared for it, and I knew what to do."

What Panenka did that day has been talked about and imitated ever since.

Faced with World Cup-winning West Germany goalkeeper Sepp Maier, Panenka shunned the more conventional technique of trying to smash it into either the top right or left corner and instead made up his mind to chip his spot-kick straight down the middle of the goal.

Panenka recalled: "I knew it was not going to be easy to beat Maier because up to that moment everybody had picked a corner, and the goalkeepers had also always gone for a corner, but I didn't know which one he would go for.

"So I knew that, by shooting this way, I would be successful because no goalkeeper stands still, especially not in the final of a European Championship."

Panenka was correct. Maier dived to his left and Panenka's penalty sailed beyond him to secure the Czechs' first - and so far only - senior success in a major international tournament.

Just as Panenka had expected a shoot-out, the decision to chip was an equally calculated one, a skill that had been honed for hours on the training ground with his old Bohemians team-mate Zdenek Hruska.

"I had started doing it about two years before the European Championship," he said.

"After every training session, I would stay behind with our goalkeeper and we would have a duel with free-kicks or penalties. It was always for money or for chocolate or something and, well, it was starting to cost me a lot of money! So I asked myself, what could I do so that I am successful?"

"I worked out that goalkeepers wait until the last minute and then dive either left or right. I worked out that if I shot hard down the centre, he could still get it with his foot. But if I hit it lightly, and the goalkeeper dives left



Antonin Panenka chips the winning penalty over Sepp Maier in the shoot-out in June 1976.



Andrea Pirlo beats Joe Hart to send England spinning out of Euro 2012

or right, then he can't save it.

"So I did it a lot in training, and then in small friendly matches, and also in the top Czech league, and of course the highlight was that final. I really had done it at least four or five times in those two years before Euro 1976."

Panenka's kick was immediately

lauded and some of the greats of the game over recent years - Lionel Messi, Andrea Pirlo and Zinedine Zidane to name three - have performed their own tributes to the original pioneer, while others have spectacularly crashed and burned attempting the risky technique.

"To be honest, I'm very happy and

proud (to see others try it)," said Panenka, who is now the chairman of the Prague-based Bohemians club who he played for between 1967 and 1981.

"It's a great pleasure for me when I see that such fantastic players - the best in the world - take a penalty the way I did. It makes me proud because I know it has been immortalised. When I see (Zlatan) Ibrahimovic, (Francesco) Totti, (Sergio) Ramos or (Zinedine) Zidane - some of the best players in the world - take a penalty which had never been seen before back when I did it, well it's such an honour."

But what about the man who he beat that day 40 years ago? Had he spoken to Maier about it?

"I didn't speak to him straight after the game, but we have met a few times since and it was always a bit awkward," Panenka admits.

"It was a bit cheeky of me as I made a bit of a fool out of him and it made him look like a clown. But that was never my intention. At that moment, I just felt it was the best way to score a penalty. I never wanted to make a fool out of him, I just had to score."

Maier's compatriots ensured they were never fooled again, and since that defeat the German national team have forged a reputation as the masters of the penalty shoot-out themselves.

"It's all about preparation," said Panenka when asked what the secret of shoot-out success was.

"We were always well prepared for penalties and Germany probably didn't expect it to go to penalties then (in 1976), so that was an advantage for us.

"Everybody can take a penalty - I think you take hundreds or thousands of penalties in training, but it's important to keep your nerve.

"When I play well, I am in a good mood and optimistic, and this is how you score."

Chipping it like... Panenka

ON June 20, 1976, Antonin Panenka wrote his name into football folklore with a famous chipped winning penalty as Czechoslovakia beat West Germany in a shoot-out to become European champions.

The audacious technique has been attempted at all levels of the game since, with varying degrees of success.

Here, the *Sports Pink* brings you a few of the most memorable, and a couple of forgettable, 'Panenka' attempts.

ZINEDINE ZIDANE (for France against Italy)

There is no bigger stage than a World Cup final to try a Panenka. Zidane pulled it off - just - in Berlin in 2006.

His shot was uncomfortably high though, and he almost missed, with the ball hitting the underside of the crossbar and bouncing down over the line before coming back out into Buffon's arms. Fortunately for Zidane the eagle-eyed officials were on hand to give the goal.

SEBASTIAN ABREU (for Uruguay against Ghana)

Nicknamed 'El Loco' ('the Crazy One'), perhaps Abreu was not the man most Uruguayans would have chosen to take the penalty which would put the country in its first World Cup semi-final for 40 years.

However, he did just that with a brilliantly-executed spot-kick in the shoot-out in South Africa in 2010.

Abreu had pulled off a similar penalty against Brazil in the 2007 Copa America semi-finals, but Uruguay lost on that occasion.

HELDER POSTIGA (for Portugal against England)

Postiga was a flop in the Premier League but a moment of brilliance rarely seen during his time at Tottenham helped condemn England to more penalty misery at Euro 2004. With Portugal 5-4 behind in the shoot-out, Postiga had to score or the hosts were out. He showed nerves of steel to delicately chip the ball down the middle as David James dived to his right. Darius Vassell then saw his spot-kick saved by Ricardo, who duly got up to blast the winning penalty into the bottom corner himself.

ANDREA PIRO (for Italy against England)

Another textbook Panenka tribute, again in the last eight of a European Championship. England were in control after Riccardo Montolivo sent his effort wide and Italy could not afford another miss in the Euro 2012 quarter-final. Up stepped Piro and with outrageous confidence, he lifted the ball nonchalantly into the net past Joe Hart.

Ashley Cole and Ashley Young would go on to miss and Italy progressed to the last four. Piro's attempt was even more astonishing given a similar penalty in an earlier friendly against Barcelona had been saved with embarrassing ease.

GARY LINEKER (for England against Brazil)

A moment Lineker surely regrets. It was only a friendly at Wembley but it cost the England striker a place in the record books. Presented with the opportunity to move level on 49 goals for his country and share the long-standing record alongside Bobby Charlton, Lineker decided to try to do it in style but his contact was far from crisp and was too low and was saved by the goalkeeper.

The Argus COMPETITION

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Tommy Elphick leaves Cherries to join Villa

Thanks for everything, Tom ... it has been a real blast!

EDDIE Howe quickly discovered what he had in Tommy Elphick.

Amid the finger pointing and frustration of an expensively-assembled Cherries squad languishing in the League One relegation zone when Howe returned from Burnley in October 2012, he recognised he had talent at his disposal, writes NEIL PERRETT. Looking back, what he inherited suited his style. Players capable of embracing a technical culture and attacking with pace.

But equally important to the rise and rise of AFC Bournemouth over the past four seasons was appointing the right leader.

Quite simply, Elphick fitted the bill in every aspect.

From superstitiously headbutting the post before every match to his no-holds-barred quotes to the media, fans, players and staff had a leader who related to them, who cared as they did. It mattered to him.

On the pitch, his influence was just as telling. Howe named him in his starting XI for every match as Cherries soared towards contention for a place in the Championship, a spell which saw him become temporary skipper.

His run was cruelly ended by Ryan Lowe's X-rated lunge at MK Dons in February 2013 and while Cherries coped, a five-match losing streak without their defensive talisman proved tricky.

Granted, the form began to turn prior to his return for the final six matches of a momentous promotion but Howe had seen enough – the Bournemouth Echo/Micky Cave player of the year would retain the armband.

It gave Elphick the opportunity at Championship level that injury had so cruelly denied him at hometown club Brighton.

But there was to be a fly in the ointment.

Summer recruit Elliott Ward arrived and kicked off the campaign alongside Steve Cook.

It would have been easy to trot out the well-worn line about fighting for places but as always, Elphick emphasised his determination in punchy fashion.

"If I start showing a bad attitude then who am I to look up to?" he asked.

"You are not going to get anything out of sulking and dragging your heels so it is important that I get fit, get up to speed as quickly as possible and push the other two on."

It took time but Ward's dismissal at Leicester at the end of October opened the door and Elphick never looked back.

From November 23, he kicked off 30 matches in a row with four clean sheets alongside partner-in-crime Cook during March, pushing Cherries tantalisingly close to the play-off places.

As it was, they had to make do with

Cherries captain Tommy Elphick celebrates with the Championship trophy at Charlton in May 2015



Cherries chairman Jeff Mostyn (right) and Tommy Elphick celebrate winning promotion to the Premier League in 2015

10th – then the club's best league finish – but that was just the prelude to Elphick securing legendary status.

That established centre-half pairing would kick off all 46 league fixtures as Cherries made history, winning the Championship by not only boasting by far the best attack but the second-meanest defence.

It looked more a brotherhood than a functional partnership, particularly in the iconic image of the two celebrating Cook's wonder goal at Fulham – a pivotal night in the club's crowning glory.

Of course, it was not just a double

act. Cherries kicked off their maiden Premier League campaign with the same back four – Simon Francis, Elphick, Cook and Charlie Daniels – that had served them in League One.

In the end, Elphick's season turned on an injury picked up in his third top-flight outing – the 4-3 thriller at West Ham – and he would miss most of the campaign after discovering he had chipped a bone in his ankle.

During that time, Francis formed a solid partnership with Cook and despite starting the final six matches, Elphick headed for Aston Villa yesterday.

In 130 appearances for Cherries, Elphick achieved what nobody thought possible and never-to-be-repeated chunks of history.

His departure finally spells the end of an era for a back four that, like so many other Cherries stars, defied their lower-league tags every time a big name was drafted in.

Elphick was at the heart of that with a tub-thumping, never-say-die spirit that was infectious.

Aston Villa, so bereft of guts and spirit last term, have the perfect antidote for their ills while the next Cherries captain has big boots to fill.

1966: My World Cup Story

By Sir Bobby Charlton

Sports - bookofthethmonth.com price: £10.00, saving £10.00 on rrp

We've grown used to the modern-day scramble for instant satisfaction, a tiresome human characteristic that has succeeded in rewarding the average and over-promoting what was once perceived as little more than basic competence.

Yet this change in outlook has proved a boon to our sporting heroes who have discovered that the route to fame and fortune has shortened markedly in the space of a handful of decades. Score 20 goals in the Premier League nowadays and you're a demigod, an 'all-time great' to be lauded, admired and rewarded with a level of riches that would make Croesus blush.

Given that, on average, England's top flight teams comprise, on average, fewer than four Englishmen, perhaps this is not surprising, although it could be argued that when that figure averaged more than nine, it was much harder to stand out.

Which brings us to Sir Bobby Charlton, a man who ranks amongst England's greatest footballers, in addition to being a true gentleman.

Gentlemen who avoid controversy, remain married to the same person for years without a hint of scandal, whose inclusive nature means they always say the right thing, who prefer to help rather than criticise, are rarely considered great subject matter for a 300-odd page book, but not Sir Bobby Charlton.

Charlton deliberately split his autobiography into two volumes, published in 2007 and 2008 respectively, covering his years at Manchester United and playing for England and this tale of life from the inside during the run-up to, during and following the nation's greatest sporting triumph draws heavily upon the latter.

Unlike My England Years, however, Charlton has a freer rein here, developing more fully the characters with whom he worked during that glorious summer.

Is it really fifty years since England tasted glory? Sir Bobby reminds us that, unfortunately, it is, but there's no gloating, no self-proclamation of greatness here, because gentlemen don't do that. He simply tells the story as it was.

SIR BOBBY CHARLTON
1966
MY WORLD CUP STORY



Euro 16 knockouts, Italy v Spain . . . tale of the tape



Spain coach Vicente del Bosque

SPAIN and Italy meet in the first knockout stage of Euro 2016 on Monday in a repeat of the final from four years ago.

A 4-0 win for the Spanish in 2012 saw them become the first team to win consecutive European Championships, but this time defeat to Croatia meant Vicente del Bosque's side had to settle for second place in Group D.

It set up a heavyweight rematch with Italy in Paris. Here, the *Sports Pink* takes

a look at the achievements of both national teams and their respective clubs' continental honours:

ITALY

World Cup Winners: 1934, 1938, 1982, 2006
Runners-up: 1970, 1994
European Championships Winners: 1968
Runners-up: 2000, 2012
European Cup and Champions League winners: AC Milan: 7 (1963, 1969, 1989, 1990, 1994, 2003, 2007); Inter Milan: 3 (1964, 1965, 2010)
Juventus: 2 (1985, 1996)
UEFA Cup and Europa League winners: Juventus: 3 (1977, 1990, 1993), Inter Milan: 3 (1991, 1994, 1998), Parma: 2 (1995, 1999),

Napoli: 1 (1989)

SPAIN

World Cup Winners: 2010
European Championships Winners: 1964, 2008, 2012
Runners-up: 1984
Confederations Cup: Runners-up: 2013
European Cup and Champions League winners: Real Madrid: 11 (1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1966, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2014, 2016); Barcelona: 5 (1992, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2015)
UEFA Cup and Europa League winners: Sevilla: 5 (2006, 2007, 2014, 2015, 2016)
Real Madrid: 2 (1985, 1986)
Atletico Madrid: 2 (2010, 2012)
Valencia: 1 (2004)

Clarke sees an international future for Cherries' players

Ex-striker speaks out

COLIN Clarke – the last Cherries player to feature at a major tournament – insists it is only a matter of time before the Dorset club is represented in one of international football's biggest competitions.

Striker Clarke made three appearances for Northern Ireland at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, coming on as a substitute in the 1-1 draw with Algeria before starting and netting a consolation in a 2-1 defeat to Spain.

Newry-born Clarke, who bagged 26 goals in 46 Division Three appearances for Cherries during the 1985-86 season, also played 90 minutes in a 3-0 loss to Brazil – a side which included the likes of Socrates, Careca and Zico.

After the tournament finished, Clarke was signed by Saints – and was an instant hit with a hat-trick on his top flight debut against Newcastle on the opening day of 1986/87.

Between then and now, only one Cherries player has travelled to a major tournament, goalkeeper Gerry Peyton being part of the Republic of Ireland squad which journeyed to Italy for the 1990 World Cup, although he did not play.

Poland stopper Artur Boruc finally broke the 26-year cycle when he travelled to France for Euro 2016, but whether the the ex-Saints shot-stopper will end a 30-year wait for a Cherries player to get on the pitch at a major tournament remains to be seen.

Boruc was an unused substitute for Poland's three group games.

But even if he does not see match time for Adam Nawalka's side, Clarke says it will not be long before the barren run is broken.

He said: "Without a doubt, it will only be a matter of time before Bournemouth is represented at a major tournament again.

"The landscape of the game has completely changed. You look at all the teams when I played and the majority of players were British and



Colin Clarke in action for Saints against Luton in 1988.

now that has changed throughout the leagues.

"It's great that Bournemouth have a team of very good players, a lot of them internationals, and after they got into the Premier League it was always going to happen that one of them was going to represent their country at a major tournament.

"Hopefully, Euro 2016 will be the first of many to come."

Cherries came close to having three

players involved in the European Championships but Harry Arter and Eunan O'Kane were not named in the Republic of Ireland squad – the former cruelly ruled out of contention by a calf injury.

Carolina RailHawks boss Clarke, whose effort against Spain was Northern Ireland's last goal in a major championship prior to Euro 2016, admits he would have loved to have seen Cherries represented sooner

at that level. He added: "I'd like to have seen it happen sooner because it would have meant Bournemouth would have been successful more quickly. The length of time is not something I've thought about much over the years but it's come to the fore now Euro 2016 is here.

"Hopefully, those that missed out this time will still be there in two years when the next big tournament comes around."

Teed off, but rules are rules!

GOLF has probably the most complicated set of rules of any sport and players are expected to know all of them and call penalties on themselves for any infringements.

Following Dustin Johnson's farcical US Open win, when he was docked a shot after his final round when his ball moved on the fifth green – having been told on the 12th tee officials would be reviewing the matter – the *Sports Pink* looks at some of the other numerous controversial rules incidents.

DUSTIN JOHNSON, 2010: It felt like history was repeating itself at Oakmont as in the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits six years ago Johnson held a one-shot lead when he drove into a sandy area on the final hole. With fans crowded around his ball it made it difficult to distinguish whether he was in a trap or not and not realising he was actually in a bunker Johnson grounded his club. He made bogey to tie with Bubba Watson and eventual champion Martin Kaymer but missed the play-off after being informed he had incurred a two-stroke penalty.

TIGER WOODS, 1999: At the Phoenix Open Woods found his shot obstructed by a boulder. Such was the sheer number of fans following the then world number one he commandeered a large group to move the huge rock out of his path after declaring it a loose impediment. Who else would have been able to call on such manpower?

TIGER WOODS, 2013: At the Masters he took an incorrect drop on the 15th hole after hitting into the water but despite being reported by a television viewer the competition committee failed to recognise the error when reviewing video evidence. Only when Woods referred to dropping the ball two yards further back in a post-round interview did they review the footage again and penalise him with a two-shot penalty. He was not disqualified for signing an incorrect scorecard as officials felt they were to blame by not presenting the evidence to the player before he signed his card.



Dustin Johnson



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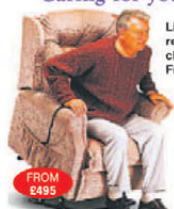
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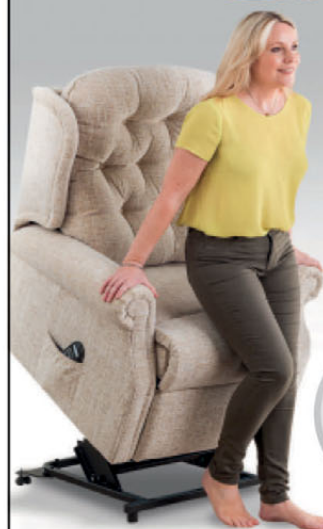
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Wimbledon facts and stats special

Winner of most men's singles titles

Before 1968: William Renshaw (GB) 7 - 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1889
Open Era: Pete Sampras (US) 7 - 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000
Roger Federer (Switzerland) 7 - 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012

Most consecutive men's singles titles

Before 1968: William Renshaw (GB) 6 - 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886
Open Era: Björn Borg (Sweden) 5 - 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980
Roger Federer (Switzerland) 5 - 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007

Winner of most men's doubles titles

Before 1968: Reggie Doherty/Laurie Doherty (GB) 8 - 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1903, 1904, 1905
Open Era: Todd Woodbridge (Aus) 9 - 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000 (with Mark Woodforde), 2002, 2003, 2004 (with Jonas Björkman)

Winner of most consecutive men's doubles titles

Before 1968: Reggie Doherty/Laurie Doherty (GB) 5 - 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901
Open Era: Todd Woodbridge/Mark Woodforde (Aus) 5 - 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997

Winner of most mixed Doubles titles (men)

Before 1968: Ken Fletcher (Aus) (with Margaret Court) 4 - 1963, 1965, 1966, 1968
Vic Seixas (US) 4 - 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956 (3 with Doris Hart, 1 with Shirley Fry Irvin)



Seven times Wimbledon men's single champion Roger Federer.

Open Era: Owen Davidson (Aus) 4 - 1967, 1971, 1973, 1974 (with Billie Jean King)
Leander Paes (India) 4 - 1999 (with Lisa Raymond), 2003 (with Martina Navratilova), 2010 (with Cara Black), 2015 (with Martina Hingis)

Winner of most Championships (singles, doubles, mixed)

Men Before 1968: Laurie Doherty (GB) 13 - 1897-1906 (5 singles, 8 doubles)
Open Era: Todd Woodbridge (Aus) 10 - 1993-2004 (9 doubles, 1 mixed)

Winner of most ladies' singles titles

Before 1968: Helen Wills (US) 8 - 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1938
Open Era: Martina Navratilova (Czech Rep/USA) 9 - 1978, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990

Winner of most consecutive Ladies' singles titles

Before 1968: Suzanne Lenglen (France) 5 - 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923
Open Era: Martina Navratilova (Czech Rep/USA) 6 - 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987

Winner of most Ladies' Doubles titles

Before 1968: Elizabeth Ryan (USA) 12 - 1914 (with Agatha Morton), 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1925 (with Suzanne Lenglen), 1926 (with Mary Browne), 1927, 1930 (with Helen Wills), 1933, 1934 (with Simonne Mathieu)
Open Era: Martina Navratilova (Czech Rep/USA) 7 - 1976 (with Chris Evert), 1979 (with Billie Jean King), 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986 (with Pam Shriver)

Continued on facing page

The A to Z alphabet of Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON starts on June 27. Here is an A to Z look at the world's greatest tennis tournament.

Aorangi - Named after New Zealand's Mount Aorangi, the picnic area formally known as Aorangi Terrace is better known as Henman Hill and derivatively tagged Murray Mound, Robson Ridge and so forth to suit the occasion.

Bogdanovic - Alex Bogdanovic played eight Wimbledon and never won a singles match. Britain's former Davis Cup captain Roger Taylor once compared his backhand to that of Rod Laver but rather than match the great Australian's four Wimbledon titles, Boggo's run of losses from 2002 to 2009 became, fairly or not, the distillation of British bottoming out.

"Come on (insert name)!" - The cry might often be aimed at a competitor in the heat of battle, but all too often it's literally a shout-out to a former player. Tim. Steffi. Boris. Those three are particular favourites of the crowd clown who still thinks this gag is funny.

Dress code - If it's all-white, it's all right. "White does not include off white or cream" is the guidance in an exhaustive, officious player guide to what to wear on the hallowed lawns. Expect a dress-code row at some point. Coloured soles, bra straps and knickers have had officials a-fluster in the past. Wimbledon also has rules in place for the Royal Box, as Lewis Hamilton found to his cost when turned away last year.

Elbows - Sharpen them, for in the narrow aisles between the outside courts it is every man and woman for themselves when trying to make ground through the dawdlers.

Fanatics - Self-identifying as "passionate and patriotic young Australians who love to support their countrymen and women", the Fanatics are to others like Vegemite: you'll love them or hate them. Aged 18 to 35, and with the great Australian songbook down pat, this animated and rehearsed yellow-and-green gang converge at their compatriots' matches and typically roll out the "Aussie Aussie Aussie, Oi Oi Oi" chant, never sparingly. Cultural 'bogans', or part of the fun: you decide.

Grass - Wimbledon's playing surface is the durable 100 per cent Perennial Ryegrass, and has been such since 2001. Cut to a height of eight millimetres, the courts are mown and rolled each day during the Championships. Nine tonnes of grass seed is used annually.

Hawk-Eye - When the human eye isn't sure, Wimbledon stars on the show courts can challenge deci-



Spectators on Murray Mound - formerly Aorangi Terrace - watch Andy Murray in action last year.



Andy Murray ended many years of hurt when he became the first Brit since the 1930s to win Wimbledon in 2013.

sions by summoning the all-seeing electronic vision of Hawk-Eye. At Wimbledon last year, narrowly over a quarter of challenges went in favour of the player making the appeal.

Integrity - Should any player be foolish enough to fix even the slightest minutiae of a contest, at the world's most famous tennis tournament, then measures that analyse match data and betting data should see them swiftly snared. The Ten-

nis Integrity Unit reported 48 cases of suspicious betting on matches in the first quarter of 2016.

Jeff Tarango - Now an erudite radio pundit, in 1995 Tarango wrote himself into Wimbledon folklore when he quit his third-round match against Alexander Mronz and aimed a volley of abuse at umpire Bruno Rebeuh, including the immortal phrase "You are the most corrupt official in the game". Wife Benedicte gave the official a

slap for good measure. Six months later, Tarango apologised, but he was banned from the 1996 championships.

Klaxons - If you were thinking about bringing a klaxon to Wimbledon - and what a moment that would be at championship point - please don't: they're on the banned list, along with selfie sticks, knives, political slogans, camping seats and pyrotechnics.

GOT A STORY FOR US? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

of Wimbledon tennis



Novak Djokovic celebrates winning the Men's Singles Final at Wimbledon last year.



A stereotypically familiar sight at Wimbledon - umbrellas going up at SW19.

Lost property - Wimbledon crowds can be forgetful, especially after a Pimm's or three. Which perhaps explains the 120 straw hats, 64 umbrellas and two crutches that were left behind by spectators last year. The Danger Mouse costume and prosthetic limb handed in over years gone by might need a little more explanation.

Maria Sharapova - see also: meldonium. The 2004 champion misses this year's Wimbledon, and

next year's too unless she has a result with her appeal, after failing a drugs test at the Australian Open.

Noise - It's a fact: tennis players have supernatural hearing. Unless it's as hushed as the Crucible theatre on a big snooker night, some will find cause to complain. Whether it's a sweet wrapper, a whispered court-side conversation, or a Daily Telegraph rustling in the wind, don't be that person.

Order - The next day's line-up usually comes out around 6pm, causing a flutter of excitement and occasional recrimination. "What do you mean, Murray's not on Centre?"

Paparazzi - Be a pap for the day, head to Gate 13 before play begins. *Taps nose*.

Queue - Wimbledon veterans camped on unforgiving pavements to land prized show-court tickets.

These days it's a more sanitised experience, with queuers forming an always orderly line through Wimbledon Park and the adjacent golf club. It is not unknown for fans to queue 72 hours before the match they hope to see.

Rufus - Rufus the Hawk has been patrolling the skies above the All England Club for many years. His fame soared in 2012 when he was stolen during the tournament and later found abandoned on Wimbledon Common.

Southfields - Southfields tube station is a breezy 15-minute walk from the courts, and the surrounding area becomes consumed by tennis mania for the fortnight. From the touts, to the ambush marketers, to the shop traders with their tennis-themed window dressing designed to draw in passing trade, it takes a strong will to walk through with hands tightly in pockets.

Towels - Some 29,000 towels - far more than any other item - were sold by the Wimbledon Shop during the 2015 tournament.

Umbrellas - They came out in the first week of last year's Wimbledon when a heat wave hit south-west London. Usually they have a more conventional use. Veterans of washed-out full days are thankful that Centre Court now has a retractable roof.

Village - Wimbledon's take on apres-ski. Hike up Church Road and you know you're in Wimbledon Village once the Dog & Fox pub comes into view. The local beer gardens and restaurants heave with tennis fans each night. The tennis stars come out too.

Wild cards - The days of British no-hopers getting these are gone, with far tighter criteria informing who secures the discretionary places. Goran Ivanisevic sensationally won the tournament as a wild card.

Xenophon Kasdaglis - The Greek-Egyptian won All England mixed doubles titles in 1908 and 1909, but neither success happened at Wimbledon, with Manchester and Liverpool then staging that particular event. Mixed doubles began at Wimbledon in 1913.

Youngest - Martina Hingis is the youngest winner of a senior Wimbledon title, having been 15 years and 282 days old when she partnered Helena Sukova to the women's doubles title in 1996. In 2015, Hingis won both women's doubles and mixed doubles at the age of 34.

Zverev - Germany's Alexander Zverev only turned 19 in April but has cracked the top 40 in the world rankings already and should climb far higher. See him on a small court before he plays the stadiums.

Wimbledon facts and statistics

Winner of most consecutive Ladies' Doubles title

Before 1968: Suzanne Lenglen (France)/Elizabeth Ryan (USA) 5 - 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923

Open Era: Martina Navratilova (Czech Rep/USA)/ Pam Shriver 4 - 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984

Natasha Zvereva (Soviet Union/Belarus) 4 - 1991 (with Larisa Neiland), 1992, 1993, 1994 (Gigi Fernández)

Winner of most Mixed Doubles titles

Ladies before 1968: Elizabeth Ryan (USA) 7 - 1919, 1921, 1923 (with Randolph Lycett), 1927 (with Frank Hunter), 1928 (with Patrick Spence), 1930 (with Jack Crawford), 1932 (with Enrique Maier)

Open Era: Martina Navratilova (Czech Rep/USA) 4 - 1985 (with Paul McNamee), 1993 (with Mark Woodforde), 1995 (with Jonathan Stark), 2003 (with Leander Paes)

Winner of most Championships (total: singles, doubles, mixed)

Ladies Before 1968: Elizabeth Ryan (USA) 19 - 1914-34 (12 doubles, 7 mixed)

Open Era: Martina Navratilova (Czech Rep/USA) 20 - 1976-2003 (9 singles, 7 doubles, 4 mixed)

Combined: Billie Jean King (USA) 20 - 1961-79 (6 singles, 10 doubles, 4 mixed)

Miscellaneous

Career match winning performance (men) singles

Björn Borg (Sweden) 92.72% (51-4) 1973-1981 (open era)

Career match winning performance (women) singles

Steffi Graf (West Germany) 90.36% (75-8) 1984-1999 (open era)



Boris Becker is the youngest winner of the men's singles title.

Won title without losing a set (men) singles Frank Hawdow (GB) 1878, Don Budge (USA) 1938, Tony Trabert (USA) 1955, Chuck McKinley (USA) 1963, Björn Borg (Sweden) 1976.

Most games won in a final: Andy Roddick (USA) 39 - 2009

Most matches played (men): Jean Borotra (France) 223 1922-39, 1948-64

Most consecutive Wimbledon played (men) Arthur Gore (GB) 30 - 1888-1922

Most matches played (women) Martina Navratilova (Czech Rep/USA) - 326

Most consecutive Wimbledon played (women) Virginia Wade (GB) 26 - 1960-1985

Loser of most singles finals (men or women) Blanche Bingley Hillyard (GB) 7 - 1885,

1887, 1888, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1901

Chris Evert (USA) 7 - 1973, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1985

Lowest-ranked winner (men or women) Goran Ivanisevic 125th (2001)

Wildcard winner (men or women) Goran Ivanisevic (2001)

Lowest-ranked winner (women) Venus Williams 31st (23rd seed) 2007

Youngest winner (men) Boris Becker (Germany) 17 years: 227 days (1985)

Youngest winner (Ladies' Singles) Lottie Do (GB) 15 years 285 days (1887)

Youngest winner (Ladies' Doubles) Martina Hingis (Switzerland) 15 years 282 days (1996)

Longest men's final by time Roger Federer v Rafael Nadal, 4hrs 48mins (2008)

Longest men's match by time: John Isner v Nicolas Mahut, 11hrs 5mins (2010)

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HANTS CRICKET

CARBS TO BE REPLACED AS OPENING BATSMAN

HAMPSHIRE will have a new-look opening partnership when they welcome Somerset to the Ageas Bowl in the Specsavers County Championship tomorrow.

The left-handed Michael Carberry/ Jimmy Adams combination that has served Hampshire so well over the last decade will be rested in a bid to breathe new life into the county's season, *writes Simon Walter.*

Carberry's poor start to the season (238 Championship runs at 21.63) was exacerbated by a soft tissue injury to his hands that has restricted his limited-overs appearances this month.

Take away his 107 against Middlesex at the Ageas Bowl at the beginning of May and Carberry has 131 runs at 13.1 in the Championship this season, having failed to reach 25 in his ten other innings.

So new Hampshire captain Will Smith will open with Adams in a bid to help all three rediscover their best form.

Smith (204 runs at 18.54) and Adams (223 runs at 27.87) have not had the best of Championship seasons either.

But Smith made a match-winning 61 against Notts in his first game as Hampshire captain, while Adams followed his 78 against Middlesex in the last Championship match on June 1 with 169 in a rain-affected Second Eleven Championship draw against Gloucestershire at May's Bounty, Basingstoke this week.

Hampshire director of cricket Giles White said: "We want to change things slightly at the top of the order so Carbs will bat in the middle order."

"He can also be very effective there and hopefully Will and Jimmy can develop a good understanding."

One advantage to the change in batting order has been highlighted by Dale Benkenstein.

"Carbs and Jimmy both being left-handers is something bowlers can get used to so having Will opening with Jimmy, as a right-hander, gives them something else to think about," said Hampshire's coach.

Carberry made his Hampshire debut under Shane Warne in 2006, a season that began with Michael Brown and Jimmy Adams opening the Hampshire batting.

By his third game, Carberry was opening for Hampshire and his first century for the club in his second game at the top of the order – 102 against Warwickshire at Edgbaston – cemented his position.

Especially as it contributed to a 113-run opening stand with Adams, who he first opened alongside for England Under-19s.



Michael Carberry in Specsavers County Championship action against Warwickshire in April (Pic: Stuart Martin)

All but three of Carberry's 24 Championship centuries for Hampshire have been made as an opening batsman, including five alongside Brown in 2007.

He and Adams were reunited in 2009, the season they shared a 261-run opening stand against Warwickshire (Adams was first out for 90 before Carberry was dismissed for a then career-best 204).

The blood clots on his lungs that

were diagnosed in November 2010 meant Liam Dawson replaced him as Adams' opening partner for the start of the 2011 season.

When Carberry returned for the last six weeks of the season, he made his career-best 300* against Yorkshire, his 182 against Somerset and 111* against Warwickshire at No.3, his position during the first half of last season to accommodate Sean Terry.

Smith opened with Adams on four occasions in Carberry's absence in 2014, his debut season, before batting there in the second innings at Middlesex three weeks ago.

Encouragingly, one of his two first-class centuries for Hampshire (142* against Kent) came as an opener, a position in which he has made 274 runs at 34.25 for the county.

Tom Alsop is set to bat at No.3.

Hampshire Cricket fixtures 2016

APRIL

4-6 Cardiff MCCU (h)

Hampshire 369-8 dec (J Weatherley 83, T Alsop 82, L McManus 68) & 126-3, Cardiff UCCE 258-9 (M Crane 3-70) & 79-1. Drawn.

10-13 Warwickshire (h) SCC

Hampshire 202 (R McLaren 85) & 185-5 (L Dawson 50no), Warwickshire 369 (J Tomlinson 3079, F Edwards 3-102). Drawn

17-20 Yorkshire (a) SCC

Yorkshire 593-9 dec & 183-8 (J Tomlinson 3-31), Hampshire 453 (S Ervine 123, J Vince 119, A Wheeler 62, R McLaren 55no). Drawn

MAY

1-4 Middlesex (h) SCC

Hants 336 (M Carberry 107, L Dawson 89) & 290-5 dec (J Adams 70, A Wheeler 57no, R McLaren 46no), Middlesex 361 (J Tomlinson 4-74, R McLaren 4-74) & 55-2. Drawn.

8-11 Lancashire (a) SCC

Hants 109 & 253 (Kerrigan 5-59), Lancs 456 (Procter 137, Best 5-50). Lost by an innings and 94 runs.

22-25 Nottinghamshire (h) SCC

Hampshire 270 (T Alsop 72) & 223-9 dec (W Smith 61no), Notts 189 & 235 (T Best 4-47). Hampshire won by 67 runs.

27 Middlesex (Uxbridge) T20

Middlesex 195-6, Hampshire 126 (L Dawson 46). Hampshire lost by 69 runs.

29 Middlesex (a, TBC) SCC

Middlesex 467-3 dec, Hampshire 131 & 220 (J Adams 78). Hampshire lost by an innings and 116 runs.

JUNE

2 Kent (h) T20

Hampshire 158-8 (M Carberry 54), Kent 149 (S Afridi 3-33). Hampshire won by nine runs.

3 Glamorgan (a) T20

Hampshire 141 (A Wheeler 39), Glamorgan 143-5. Hampshire lost by five wickets

5 Essex (h) RLODC

Hampshire 310-4 (A Wheeler 90, T Alsop 83, L Dawson 70no), Essex 314-7. Hampshire lost by three wickets.

7 Middlesex (Radlett CC) RLODC

Middlesex 295-8 (M Crane 4-80), Hampshire 204-5 (L Dawson 68no, S Ervine 45, A Wheeler 41). Hampshire won by

5 wickets (DL).

8 Kent (a) T20 (f) - Kent 193-3, Hampshire 185-9 (S Ervine 56). Hampshire lost by eight runs.

9 Surrey (a) T20

- Surrey 188-5, Hampshire 108 (L McManus 41, G Andrew 31). Hampshire lost by 80 runs.

14 Gloucestershire (a) RLODC (f) - Gloucs 352-3, Hampshire 342-8 (G Andrew

70no, L Dawson 57, S Ervine 53, T Alsop 50), Hampshire lost by 10 runs.

15 Surrey (h) RLODC (f) - Hampshire 289-8 (T Alsop 16, S Ervine 50), Surrey 283-9 (G Berg 4-64). Hampshire won by six runs.

17 Sussex (h) T20 (f) - abandoned, rain.

19 Somerset (a) T20 - Hampshire 133 (L Dawson 46), Somerset 136-4. Hampshire lost by 6 wickets.

24 Essex (a) T20 (f)

25 Gloucestershire (h) T20

26-29 Somerset (h) SCC

JULY

1 Surrey (a) T20 (f)

3-6 Durham (a) SCC

8 Essex (h) T20 (f)

10-13 Warwickshire (a) SCC

14 Glamorgan (h) T20 (f)

17-20 Surrey (h) SCC

22 Middlesex (h) T20 (f)

26 Kent (h) RLODC (f)

27 Sussex (a) RLODC (f)

29 Somerset (h) T20 (f)

31 Glamorgan (Swansea) RLODC

AUGUST

2 Somerset (h) RLODC (f)

4-7 Lancashire (h) SCC

8-11 T20 quarter-finals

13-16 Nottinghamshire (a) SCC

17-18 RLODC quarter-finals

20 T20 Finals Day (Edgbaston)

23-26 Somerset (a) SCC

31-3 Yorkshire (h) SCC

SEPTEMBER

6-9 Surrey (a) SCC

17 RLODC final

20-23 Durham (h) SCC

Key

SCC: Specsavers County Championship

T20: Natwest T20 Blast

RLODC: Royal London One-Day Cup

(f): Floodlit

HANTS CRICKET

BERG IS READY FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP

GARETH Berg is set to play his first Specsavers County Championship match since his stellar debut season.

Hampshire's Players' Player of the Year has been nursed back to full fitness since undergoing a knee operation before the start of the season, *writes Simon Walter.*

Berg sustained the injury while sliding in the field during a pre-season match in Barbados.

Now, after 36.1 overs of limited-overs competition, Berg has been declared ready for the rigours of a four-day match.

He has impressed during his 25 overs in the Royal London One-Day Cup (six wickets at 26) and 11.1 in the Natwest T20 Blast (five wickets at 20.8).

Berg was in the squad for last night's game against Essex, but if he played at Chelmsford he is likely to be rested for today's family festival game against Gloucestershire at The Ageas Bowl (1.30pm) as he prepares for his first Championship match since Hampshire completed the Great Escape last September.

Hampshire's improbable survival was largely due to Berg's heroics.

The 34 year-old's 672 runs at 32 and 42 wickets at 28.11 apiece made him one of the signings of the season, after a shoulder infection persuaded Middlesex to cancel his contract.

He contributed with bat and/or ball consistently until the crucial last game, when he took 2-51 and 2-28 either side of scoring 72 at No.10 as Hampshire beat a Nottinghamshire side including Stuart Broad at Trent Bridge.

So he was always going to be a big miss during the first half.

"It's a big boost to have Gareth Berg back for the Championship, after his performances last season," said Hampshire director of cricket Giles White. "He gives us depth of batting as well as bowling in what is a very big match for us."

Hampshire have returned to the foot of the table after Surrey's win against Notts at The Oval put them level on



Gareth Berg in action during last season's home match against Somerset (Chris Moorhouse)

points with their third-from-bottom opponents.

But Hampshire have two games in hand on both sides. A maximum points win against Somerset would lift them back above Surrey, who have a week off.

Hampshire coach Dale Benkenstein says Berg's return will improve the county's chances of taking maximum batting points.

"We need to start scoring 400 runs consistently in the first innings," he said.

"When we do that we'll have confidence from being

hard to beat."

Hampshire have first-innings totals of 202, 453-9, 109, 270 and 131 this season.

The last total precipitated their 2016 nadir, the innings and 116-run defeat against Middlesex.

Hampshire left Merchant Taylors' School on June 1 with minus one point, with their slow over rate compounding a poor performance.

Berg is likely to be one of two changes to that team, with Tom Alsop expected to bat at No.3

Joe Weatherley will probably be one of those to make way after making his first-class debut against Middlesex.

Unbeaten Somerset won their first Championship match of the season, by one wicket against Surrey, when they were last in four-day action a month ago - after beginning with five successive draws.

Hampshire (possible 12): Smith, Adams, Alsop, Dawson, Carberry, Ervine, Wheater, McLaren, Berg, Best, Crane, Tomlinson.

England's Sri Lanka tie is only the eighth in ODI

LIAM Plunkett had the last ball for six to tie England's opening ODI against Sri Lanka at Trent Bridge.

It was just the eighth ODI tie in England history, and these are the previous seven:

England v Australia, Trent Bridge, May 27, 1989

Having lost impetus in their chase of 226 for five, Australia needed two runs off the final ball, bowled by England's Phil DeFreitas. Carl Rackemann failed to make contact, but when Steve Rhodes missed the stumps after gathering cleanly, Ian Healy raced through for the bye that tied the match. Australia finished on 226 for eight and, by losing fewer wickets, England made certain of the Texaco Trophy.

New Zealand v England, McLean Park, February 26, 1997
England ensured they could not lose the series by scrambling a bye from the final

byes ensured England matched Australia's total of 196. Jones (71) was again one of the England heroes with his sixth-wicket stand of 116 alongside Paul Collingwood rescuing a desperate innings.

New Zealand v England, McLean Park, February 20, 2008

Daniel Vettori needed two runs off the final delivery to seal a series victory for New Zealand but Luke Wright kept his cool to take it into a decider. The Black Caps looked set to easily reach their target of 341 in the fourth match before Jamie How (139) was run out in the last over. New Zealand still went on to clinch the series 3-1 with a Brendon McCullum-inspired 34-run victory in the final clash.

India v England, M Chinnaswamy Stadium, February 27, 2011
Andrew Strauss smashed a



England's Liam Plunkett hammers a six off the final ball.

ball of the third match, despite Darren Gough missing Geoff Allott's delivery. Dominic Cork was the batsman at the other end after Craig White and Robert Croft were dismissed in a nerve-tangling final over.

South Africa v England, Goodyear Park, February 2, 2005

Geraint Jones stumped South Africa's Andrew Hall off the final ball to secure an exhilarating tie in Bloemfontein. Kabir Ali bowled the final over with eight needed and, after a shaky start, dismissed Mark Boucher and saw Ashwell Prince run out before Hall also fell. Kevin Pietersen hit his maiden century for England, who made 270 for five, but it was not enough to claim victory.

England v Australia, Lord's, July 2, 2005

England needed three off the last two balls but ended up sharing the NatWest Series with Australia after a last-ball thriller at Lord's. Gough was run out by Glenn McGrath before two leg

stunning 158 but England fell just short of victory in their World Cup clash against co-hosts India. England needed 14 off the final over to reach the 339-run target in the Group B tussle but Graeme Swann could manage just a single from Munaf Patel's last delivery to ensure a tie. India went on to win the World Cup with a six-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the final.

England v India, Lord's, September 11, 2011

England clinched the ODI series against India after a confusing end to the rain-affected fourth match at Lord's. A magnificent 96 from Ravi Bopara dragged England back within reach of the 281-run target posted by India but, with the hosts needing 11 to win from seven balls when another downpour arrived, the match was tied under the Duckworth/Lewis method. England secured a 3-0 series win, ruining Rahul Dravid's final ODI, five days later with a six-wicket triumph in Cardiff.

Saints keeper Forster set to stay on the bench - again!

SAINTS keeper Fraser Forster is on course to stay a bench-warmer for the second England tournament running.

Forster sat on the bench for all three Euro 2016 group games and, unless Joe Hart is injured, will almost certainly stay there - as he did in the last World Cup - for the remainder of the tournament.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks back at England's unused players of the past two decades.

EURO 96

Unused players - 5 (Tim Flowers, Ian Walker, Steve Howey, Phil Neville, Les Ferdinand)

Manager Terry Venables left his two back-up goalkeepers, Newcastle pair Howey and Ferdinand and a 19-year-old Phil Neville kicking their heels on home turf 20 years ago.

England's semi-final exit to Germany saw the starting XI go through the entire 120 minutes plus spot-kicks without alteration.

WORLD CUP 1998

Unused players - 5 (Tim Flowers, Les Ferdinand, Rio Ferdinand, Martin Keown, Nigel Martyn)

Glenn Hoddle's most controversial selection decision was leaving Paul Gascoigne out of the final squad - news which the midfielder took less than well.

But five players who did get on the plane to France never made it over the touchline. Flowers and Les Ferdinand sat out for the second tournament in a row, joined by Ferdinand's cousin Rio, Arsenal's Keown and keeper Martyn.

EURO 2000

Unused players - 4 (Richard Wright, Robbie Fowler, Kevin Phillips, Gareth Barry)

England did not even make the knockout stages in Belgium and Holland but Kevin Keegan still managed to find a way to use 19 men in three games.

Two pedigree poachers, in Fowler and Phillips, collected splinters alongside a teenage rookie in Barry and third-choice keeper Wright.

WORLD CUP 2002

Unused players - 5 (Nigel Martyn, David James, Wes Brown, Gareth Southgate, Martin Keown)

The consistency of Rio Ferdinand and Sol Campbell meant all three of Sven-Goran Eriksson's spare centre-halves were relegated to spectators.

David Seaman's blunder in the quarter-final defeat to Brazil will linger in the memory, but he kept Martyn and David James out of the picture throughout.

EURO 2004

Unused players - 6 (Paul Robinson, Ian Walker, Wayne Bridge, Jamie Carragher, Nicky Butt, Joe Cole)



England pair Fraser Forster, right, and Tom Heaton - neither of whom can expect to see Euro 2016 action barring injury



England's John Stones (centre left) and Ross Barkley (centre right) - neither appeared during the three Euro 2016 group games under Roy Hodgson

Another quarter-final disappointment for Eriksson's England, ousted by hosts Portugal, and this time half-a-dozen squad members were surplus to requirements.

All six were clear understudies and failed to graduate beyond that.

WORLD CUP 2006

Unused players - 5 (David James, Wayne Bridge, Jermaine Jenas, Theo Walcott, Scott Carson)

Two familiar 'P' words - Portugal and penalties - accounted for England in Germany. Theo Walcott's selection, as an untried 18-year-old yet to kick a ball in anger for Arsenal caused quite a stir at the time, but it quickly became clear he was on a curious high-level work experience trip.

Four fellow extras, including Wayne Bridge for the second time, kept the youngster company.

WORLD CUP 2010

Unused players - 4 (Michael Dawson, Stephen Warnock, Michael Carrick, Joe Hart)

Having failed to qualify for Euro 2008, the squad had a new look by the time Fabio Capello took it to South Africa. He used two of his three goalkeepers - Rob Green, dropped after an opening-night gaffe, and David James - but left the future number one Hart kicking his heels.

Dawson and Warnock appeared to be filler from the off, while Carrick's frustrations at his role later came to the fore.

EURO 2012

Unused players - 7 (Rob Green, Jack Butland, Martin Kelly, Leighton Baines, Phil Jones, Phil Jagielka, Stewart Downing)

Roy Hodgson stuck to a tried-and-trusted core of players in Ukraine and Poland, with just 16 of his chosen men seeing action.

That group performed well enough to top the group and take Italy to penalties but came up just short and headed home at the quarter-final stage. As Hodgson surveyed his bench in that match few of the names above would have leapt out as obvious game-breakers.

WORLD CUP 2014

Unused players - 2 (Fraser Forster, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain)

In stark contrast to his first tournament, Hodgson used nearly all of his available players in Brazil. Had his first-choice side performed better he may not have done so, but with England's exit already confirmed by the time they lined up against Costa Rica, he was happy to make wholesale changes. Ex-Saint Oxlade-Chamberlain would surely have joined in had he been fit enough.

N Ireland v Wales: 6 of the best

EURO 2016 opponents Wales and Northern Ireland have played each other 60 times since the partition of Ireland in 1921.

Wales were 2-1 victors in their first fixture in April 1921 and have won 27, drawn 18 and lost 15 of the 60 games.

Here, the *Pink* looks at six of their memorable meetings before today's last-16 tie.

March 31, 1954
Wales 1 Northern Ireland 2
The 1953-54 British Home Championship doubled up as a qualifying group for the 1954 World Cup. Peter McParland scored twice to give Northern Ireland a 2-0 lead at Wrexham before John Charles claimed a late consolation. But it was still England who made it through to the finals in Switzerland that year.

April 15, 1964
Wales 2 Northern Ireland 3
A British Home Championship game in Swansea remembered for George Best making his Northern Ireland debut. Best enjoyed a winning start as Martin Harvey, Samuel Wilson and James McLaughlin scored. Ron Davies and Brian Godfrey replied for Wales.

September 8, 2004
Wales 2 Northern Ireland 2
An incredible 2006 World Cup qualifier in Cardiff saw three players sent off and Wales recover from a two-goal deficit to draw. Robbie Savage and Michael Hughes were dismissed after an eighth-minute clash before Jeff Whitley and David Healy scored for Northern Ireland. But Healy was red-carded for an over-exuberant goal celebration and John Hartson and Robert Earnshaw secured a share of the spoils.

October, 8, 2005
Northern Ireland 2 Wales 3
The Belfast return just over a year later saw Wales claim their first win of the campaign. Simon Davies fired Wales ahead, Carl Robinson added a second and the game would have been over but for Maik Taylor saving Hartson's penalty. Keith Gillespie and Steve Davis levelled for Northern Ireland, but a stunning Ryan Giggs free-kick gave Wales victory.

May 27, 2011
Wales 2 Northern Ireland 0
Only 529 fans turned up - thought to be a record low attendance for both nations - at Dublin's Aviva Stadium. The occasion was the short-lived Nations Cup which also included Scotland and hosts the Republic of Ireland. Aaron Ramsey and Earnshaw were on target for Wales as the late Gary Speed enjoyed the first victory of his brief managerial reign.

March 24, 2016
Wales 1 Northern Ireland 1
Craig Cathcart's shot on the turn on the hour mark looked like handing Northern Ireland their first away friendly win in almost a decade. But Wales - who were without star men Ramsey and Gareth Bale - rallied and Simon Church converted a last-minute penalty.



Steven Davis

ELIAS SAD TO LOSE 'TALENT' HYNDMAN

NEW Cherries recruit Emerson Hyndman has been given a glowing reference from the man who developed Gareth Bale, Adam Lallana and Theo Walcott.

Fulham's head of recruitment Malcolm Elias, who formerly held similar roles at Southampton and Liverpool, revealed he had been set to take Hyndman to Anfield during his formative years.

Elias said the USA international's switch to Dorset, which will be completed when his Fulham contract expires at the end of this month, had been "bitterly disappointing" but acknowledged the 20-year-old had been "destined for the Premier League".

He predicted Hyndman would "thrive" thanks to Cherries boss Eddie Howe's knack for developing talent and would relish playing with last season's unsung hero Andrew Surman.

Elias said: "Emerson is very gifted technically and will enjoy playing alongside Andrew Surman, one of the boys I helped to bring through at Southampton."

"I would say they are similar. They are both clever, good on the ball with good awareness and creativity. They will be on the same wavelength."

"Despite being young, Emerson has the knack of being able to control the tempo of a game and I have not known many players have that capability so early in their careers."

"He is very confident on the pitch and without question, is one of the most diligent players I have ever been involved with."

"He desperately wants to be the best player he can be and I know the guys at Bournemouth, Simon Weatherstone (first-team coach) especially, know what a quality player they are getting. He is a terrific talent."

"Emerson is lucky to be working with Eddie Howe and I think that was a big selling point."

"He is definitely Eddie's type of player."

"Personally, I think he will be a great loss to Fulham and a fantastic signing because he is the type of intelligent, technical player that will thrive in Bournemouth's environment."

"He was always destined for the Premier League, it was just a matter of



Emerson Hyndman, right, against Cardiff last season. Inset: Malcolm Elias

when and with who. I am bitterly disappointed to lose him, as a player and as a person, but at the same time I am delighted he is going to a Premier League club."

And Elias reckons Cherries will reap the rewards of a player who set the trend for future years at Craven Cottage.

"I saw him develop from a small boy into someone who changed the culture at Fulham," he added.

"Before he came, we were renowned for having athletic players but very few

with technical ability. Emerson helped me to change the type of player we recruited, to sign more technical, talented players than we had ever attracted before."

"He was the shining light and got the boys playing, he dictated games with intelligence and technique."

"When he first arrived, he was up against it physically but he learned how to cope with that."

"His family are really good people as well. Bournemouth are getting a damn good player and a damn good person."

England move second after win Down Under

GRAND Slam champions England have climbed to second in the world rankings after establishing an unassailable 2-0 lead heading into Saturday's final test against Australia at Sydney's Allianz Stadium.

Coach Eddie Jones' ultimate aim is to snatch New Zealand's crown at the next World Cup in Japan in 2019, but are they good enough to challenge the All Blacks?

Here, the *Sports Pink* assesses their chances:

HOW GOOD ARE ENGLAND?

Toppling Australia in Melbourne has lifted them to second in the world rankings and it is a position they deserve, a Grand Slam and series victory in Australia – who they have usurped in the global rankings – identifying them as the main threat to New Zealand.

WHEN WILL THEY FACE THE ALL BLACKS?

Sadly, due to a frustrating

WHAT AREAS ARE THOSE?

England's key issue, as recognised by Jones, is the lack of consistency from game to game – other than the result. In Brisbane they were found wanting defensively, but in attack they scored some fine tries. Fast forward seven days and their attack was non-existent, yet defensively they were magnificent. And the line-out and scrum are every bit as unpredictable. Jones has called for England to deliver a complete, 80-minute performance in Sydney on Saturday knowing that if they are to dethrone New Zealand, that is what will be required.

WHAT ELSE WILL THEY HAVE TO ADDRESS?

Restarts have been poor in this series and Jones views the ball-carrying of the All Blacks forwards as being on a different level. As always the breakdown will be key and while England have developed rapidly in this area, seeing off Australian masters David



Maro Itoje has frightening potential.

quirk of the scheduling system, they will not meet the world champions until November 2017 at the earliest. Having played them four times in 2014 alone and on six occasions in the last four years, they must now wait to test themselves against Steve Hansen's all-conquering world champions.

The autumn fixtures for next year are still in the process of being arranged and it is conceivable that New Zealand's next visit to Twickenham will be as far away as 2018.

SO WOULD ENGLAND WIN?

Much can change between now and when they do eventually meet, but given the remarkable rate of improvement engineered by Eddie Jones there is no reason why they could not issue a statement of intent ahead of Japan 2019 by dispatching the All Blacks.

Certain areas will have to be addressed, however.

Pocock and Michael Hooper in the process, their decision-making, discipline and intensity will have to improve against New Zealand. The Grand Slam champions have shown an ability to take their chances under Jones and this must continue if they are to become world champions.

AND WHAT WILL CONCERN THE ALL BLACKS?

England's pack now bristles with aggression and is willing to be confrontational in a way that was absent under Stuart Lancaster. They are niggly and spiteful and New Zealand will know they face a battle up-front. Maro Itoje is a forward of frightening potential, Dylan Hartley is proving a fine test captain and Owen Farrell is rapidly becoming the most dead-eyed kicker in the game, so any ill-discipline is certain to be punished. And as the defensive display in Melbourne has proved, they are team willing to put their bodies on the line for the cause.



Champagne and strawberries at Wimbledon

29,000 bottles of champagne!

WIMBLEDON is about tennis. Of course it is, to many. Roger Federer only truly cares about the numbers on the scoreboard.

But Wimbledon is about a great day out too, and the extraordinary lengths to which organisers go to stage the world's premier tennis tournament.

Here is a look, in numbers, at how the All England Club is transformed from a private club to the site of a sporting jamboree for a fortnight each year.

Top tennis tipples - what the crowds drink:

- 330,000 cups of tea and coffee
- 320,000 glasses of Pimm's
- 230,000 bottles of water

- 110,000 pints of draught beer and lager
- 29,000 bottles of champagne

Wimbledon's strawberry bond:

- 140,000 portions of English strawberries are sold during the tournament
- £1.70 – price of a punnet in 1993
- £2.50 – price of a punnet in 2015
- 10,000 – the litres of cream that are poured over the fruit during the course of the championships
- 10 – minimum number of berries per punnet

Serving up food fit for a champion diet – what the crowds eat each year:

- 110,000 sandwiches and baguettes
- 16,000 portions of fish and chips
- 30,000 stonebaked pizzas
- 86,000 ice cream portions
- 25,000 scones

LOCAL CRICKET

BY HOOK OR BY BROOKE...



Liam Doran

IT was so near, yet so far for Hook & Newnham Basics as they lost by a solitary run chasing down a James Brooke inspired St Cross Symondians total of 264.

All appeared lost when Hook, bidding to keep in touch with unbeaten County Division 1 leaders Alton II, sank to 48-4, writes Mike Vimpany.

But a battling middle-order fight-back – three batsmen hit half-centuries – and then another late rally took Basics to within touching distance of the target and left skipper Kevin Light rueing the opportunities that had got away.

Earlier, Brooke put the HNB bowling to the sword as only he knows how – with plenty of big, straight hitting in a no-nonsense 109.

Hook got him out at 196-7 but, having sent down 41 extras, found themselves frustrated as Henry Eades (34) engineered the tail to lift the tea-time total to 269.

Losing four of their top order before their reply had reached 50 was far from ideal for Hook, but half-centuries by Andy Darmody (51) and Ben Allnut (52) put them back in the picture.

With Kerr Franklin (35) alongside,

last summer's HCB Under-15 cup winning captain Liam Doran (who had earlier taken 3-46 with his off-spin) hit a maiden 53 not out, but ran out of partners as Steve Fryer (4-38) returned to take the last three wickets and leave Hook high and dry on 268 all out.

The result left Hook in joint fourth place behind Purbrook and Portsmouth & Southsea, who each won to keep the pressure on Alton II.

Under-strength

Purbrook lost to Alton recently, but experienced few difficulties in beating an under-strength New Milton II by 122 runs at Fernhill.

Opener Martin Lee (68) underpinned Purbrook's 208-9, getting middle-order support from James Holder (35) and Hamid Khan (29), who later took 3-17 as NM fell to 86 all out (Raff Hussey 32). Aaron Dean took 4-11.

P & S don't play Alton until mid-August, but they will have taken delight in inflicting a third successive defeat on newly-promoted United Services, who topped the log at the end of May.

Matt (88) and Tom Benfield (65) piloted P & S to a competitive 245-8 (Matt Easton 4-78), but when Mark Toogood (63) and Tom May (36) gave US a near 100-run start it was game on.

The tide turned when Jack Peach (4-25) rolled out four of the Services' top five, including Aussie run gun Matt Rogers (22).

United Services closed 219-6.

P & S skipper Kieran Dunstan conceded: "We had to battle hard for this one."

"For the first 25 overs of both innings United Services were much the better team, but at the business end, however, we made it count."

OTs & Romsey II are joint fourth after a nine-wicket rout at Southern Gardens, where they mowed bottom side Totton & Eling II down for 102 – John Dowling and Tim Slade sharing eight of the wickets.

Slade (40), Shane Vidler (38) and Paul Longland, with 29 not out, completed the formalities in only 13 overs.

Martin Peters answered a late call to bale out depleted Ropley – and promptly hit a match winning century against Fareham & Crofton at Vicarage Lane.

Peters, who confesses to be in 'semi-retirement' as a club cricketer, Peters hit 14 fours in his 100 and shared a 151-run third-wicket partnership with South African Tim Niemand (87) as Ropley posted a formidable 265-9, a total beyond Fareham's reach, who made 171 in reply.

"I left the crease kicking himself after sending an inviting full-toss into deep mid-wicket's hands just after completing my century."

A career-best was there for the taking," he moaned.

Lewis Taylor (5-24) and Iain Hardcastle, with 56, guided Burridge II to a maiden CD1 victory over Andover, who are finding life tough after two successive promotions.

Ellingham enjoyed a five-wicket win at Bishops Waltham, whose first five batsmen managed just 15 runs between them as they crashed to 22-5 against Ali Redfern (3-32) and Sean Ledbetter (2-25).

Gareth Lovett (37) and Ian Budd (17) stopped the rot with a stand of 50 and then Sam Medhurst (31) chipped in.

But with wickets falling to Tom Faulkner (2-29) and Jim Edwards (2-17), they were all out for 141 in the 47th over.

After losing a couple of early wickets, Ellingham settled down with David Douse and Edwards both making 42 that ensured victory in the 46th over.

The most relieved side of the day were Ventnor seconds, who were spared the Hampshire League's longest journey – an away day at Shrewton, high up on Salisbury Plain!

Injury blow for Rouse

ST Cross Symondians' former Hampshire second team wicketkeeper Adam Rouse will be out for at least six weeks after under-going surgery on a serious finger injury sustained playing for Kent in this week's drawn Specsavers County Championship match against Glamorgan at Cardiff's SWALEC Stadium.

The 23-year old is in plaster cast after surgeons operated on a broken and dislocated finger, an injury initially sustained while Rouse was keeping wicket to Kent teammate Martin Claydon, writes Mike Vimpany.

Ironically, Rouse only played at Cardiff as a late replacement for England ODI international Sam Billings – but still emerged with a Championship best performance.

The five catches he took in Glamorgan's first innings took his tally for the season to 34 – the highest number of wicket-keeping dismissals in the country.

He was forced to retire hurt after leading a Kent recovery from 85-5 to an eventual 279 all out.

The gutsy Basingstoke-raised keeper/batsman returned to the crease and went on to make a best-yet 65, including 13 fours.

Rouse, who has a two-year contract with Kent, was due to have played for St Cross Symondians in today's SAT scheduled Southern Premier League match at Alton, but is unlikely to play again until August.

● The Winchester & District CA is playing catch-up with the rain ravaged Titchborne Trophy T20 quarter-finals.

Fair Oak and Sparsholt, who beat Ropley by seven wickets in midweek, are through to the semis.

But Bishops Waltham (v Longparish) and Titchborne Park (v Potwar Lions) will have a third attempt to play their rain delayed ties on Monday evening.



Symondians' Adam Rouse, St Cross Symondians

LOCAL CRICKET

TROJANS LEAD SPL 2 AFTER PROMOTION



Table topping Trojans. Standing (from left): Mario Mohammed, Syed Mahmood, Jordan Wright, Dan Babidge, James Truscott, Faisal Rahim. Seated: Nigel Le Bas, Simon Williams, Ed Boyd, Ed Pope, Jamie Donaldson.

TROJANS captain Ed Boyd isn't entirely surprised to see his charges topping Southern Premier League Division 2 after being promoted at the end of last season.

"We were confident we could do well in SPL2. We've got a young team who are improving year on year.

"We've also got some more experienced guys who are helping out the younger ones a lot.

"I think overall we've got a good balance," he said.

Boyd paid tribute to Trojans middle-order for their part in the team's six-win start.

"Two seasons ago our middle order didn't really fire, but since then they've been re-

ally strong for us and have got us out of a couple of holes.

"The wicket against Calmore Sports last week wasn't an easy one to bat on, due to heavy mid week rain, but James Truscott, Dan Babidge, Nigel Le Bas and Jordan Wright all dug in and got us up to a competitive score.

"After the first few overs I said to opening partner Simon Williams I thought 200 would be a very tough chase.

"At half-way I would have liked 10 or 20 more but I knew it wouldn't be easy for Calmore with our bowling attack and the tricky batting conditions."

King Edward VI raised Jamie Donaldson

isn't due to play against Hambledon today, but according to Boyd, the seasoned 48-year old has been a key player in the team's success.

"Jamie 'big man' Donaldson is in his 25th consecutive season at Trojans and is bowling as well as ever.

"He's the most consistent bowler I've played with.

"The conditions against Calmore were perfect for him and he didn't disappoint with his 5-21 coming inside the 14th over of their innings."

● Alton face holders Farnborough in the long established Hampshire Colleges Altham Trophy final at the Ageas Bowl Nursery Ground on Thursday, 1pm.



Harry Gadd

Havant hope to be Gadd all over

HAVANT and South Wilts have a second attempt at playing – and hopefully finishing – their rain-delayed ECB Royal London national club championship group final tomorrow afternoon.

They got just over halfway through their tie last Sunday when heavy drizzle sent the players and umpires scurrying from the field.

Havant were defending 217-5 and South Wilts had made 21 without loss when play was abandoned four overs into the evening session.

For almost an hour it looked as though Havant might be facing an embarrassing total as South Wilts second teamer Matt Bur-

ton (4-22) and Jack Mynott (1-19) reduced the hosts to 41-5.

But Hampshire Under-17s prospect Harry Gadd, with nine fours in a sensible 96 not out, and Richard Hindley (61) averted a batting collapse with an unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 170 to ease Havant to a competitive 217-5.

Bridgewater and Frocester, whom tomorrow's winners will face in the opening national round, also had their tie abandoned, with the Somerset side struggling at 140-9.

Two former locals – Ed Denham and Ben Ladd-Gibbon – saw Walsall's attack butchered for 330-6 when rain intervened at Wolverhampton.

Irish to face hosts after Brady winner

THE Republic of Ireland will face hosts France in the second round of Euro 2016 after Robbie Brady's header gave them a dramatic 1-0 win over Italy to qualify from Group E.

Ireland will face England in the quarter-finals should they beat France and the Three Lions overcome Iceland.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at five of their greatest previous results.

Charlton's side also set a new unbeaten record of 17 games after a 0-0 draw in Genoa.

Kevin Sheedy, Houghton, Andy Townsend and Tony Cascarino scored from the spot before Pat Bonner saved Daniel Timofte's penalty and David O'Leary sent Ireland into the last eight – where they lost 1-0 to Italy.

IRELAND 1-0 ENGLAND (EURO 1988)

It was the Republic's European Championship debut and they could not have marked it in better fashion. Ray Houghton scored a sixth-minute winner after some awful English defending allowed him to head past Peter Shilton. Chris Hughton, Mick McCarthy and Paul McGrath all played for Jack Charlton's side.

It was Ireland's second win over England, ending a wait of 39 years since they beat the Three Lions 2-0 in 1949.

IRELAND 1-0 ITALY (WORLD CUP 1994)

One of the most iconic moments in Irish football history.

Houghton was the hero again when he scored to upset Italy, eventual beaten finalists, in New York. The midfielder capitalised on sloppy Italian defending to loop a half volley over Gianluca Pagliuca from 25 yards to spark wild celebrations.

They lost their next game to Mexico 2-0 before a 0-0 draw with Norway saw them qualify for the second round, where they lost 2-0 to Holland in Orlando.

IRELAND 1-1 SOVIET UNION (EURO 1988)

Following on from the memorable victory over England Ireland faced the then formidable former Soviet Union, who had already beaten Holland, in their next game. It was their first-ever major championship and they continued their momentum when Liverpool's Ronnie Whelan opened the scoring.

Oleg Protasov equalised after 75 minutes and then a narrow 1-0 defeat to eventual champions Holland meant Ireland failed to qualify from the group – although they did finish above winless England.

IRELAND 1-0 GERMANY (EURO 2016 QUALIFIER)

Martin O'Neill's men produced a stunning win over the world champions to leave qualification for France in their own hands.

Saints striker Shane Long's second-half goal – just five minutes after he had come on as a sub – secured a memorable victory after the striker latched onto Darren Randolph's long clearance.

Ireland still needed to rely on the play-offs to qualify and beat Bosnia over two legs to reach Euro 2016 thanks to two Jonathan Walters goals in the second game.

IRELAND 0-0 ROMANIA - IRELAND WIN 5-4 ON PENALTIES (WORLD CUP 1990)

A shoot-out victory saw Ireland qualify for the World Cup quarter-finals without winning a game in regulation time following three draws in the group stage.



Goalscorer Robbie Brady celebrates victory over Italy



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Terra-ble move to vote reserves in

WHEN Dave Cox joked that Weymouth Reserves had drawn Hythe & Dibden in the Sydenhams League Cup, it brought some much-needed mirth to the Sydenhams Wessex AGM.

But, deep down, it was no laughing matter for the long-serving Hythe chairman, *writes Wendy Gee*.

He was livid that Weymouth's second string had been granted promotion from the Dorset Premier League to become the first ever reserve side in Sydenhams One.

Despite numerous objections voiced by clubs, the vote went 26-20 in favour of accepting the Football Association's proposed Wessex constitution for 2016/17 with Terras' reserves joining Baffins Milton Rovers, Hamble Club and Shaftesbury in promotion from Step 7.

And much as Cox welcomes new blood into the league, he is fuming that a reserve side has been let in.

"I've spent 25 years with Hythe & Dibden making them a good club – and now, suddenly, we're a reserve league. It's ridiculous!" he fumed.

"I'm disappointed that some of the clubs voted to let them in.

"The next thing we know we'll get another reserve side and then another and we'll end up as a reserve league.

"The rules say that reserve sides are not allowed into our league and I can't understand how they were ever let into the pyramid system in the first place.

"Five years ago the league said they would not accept reserve teams into Step 6 (Wessex One), but now they have.

"And what happens in four or five years' time if Weymouth keep winning the league and want to go up?"

Embrace

"We're told they're not allowed into Step 5 (Wessex Premier), but what if they challenge that?"

They could end up in our Premier League."

Cox's view is not shared by everyone.

Christchurch boss Ollie Cherrett welcomes Weymouth Reserves' inclusion in Sydenhams One, insisting players and managers should "embrace" playing at a Southern Premier ground with good facilities.

Cherrett added: "Weymouth Reserves have been around and strong for a long time. I think it is good for the league.

"You could understand concerns over games being called off to protect the pitch for the first team but, in my experience, that never happened when they were in the Dorset Premier League."

Cox, though, says it is not Weymouth Reserves he objects to, more the way it has been done.



Action from a Weymouth Reserves game last season. Inset: Hythe chairman Dave Cox is unhappy the Terras' second team have been allowed into the Wessex League.

He cannot believe the goalposts have been shifted so dramatically.

He recalled: "A few years ago our reserves did well in the Southampton League under Colin Burdell, but they weren't allowed into the Premier Division.

"And what about Sholing? They had a really good reserve side when Dave Fear was there and won the Southampton Senior Cup three or four times. I'm sure they would have liked a reserve side in Wessex One but it wasn't allowed and that will have held Sholing back.

"But Dave Diaper (Sholing manag-

er) and Dave Malone at Winchester City are not stupid. They'll be thinking now what's to stop them entering a reserve team in the Hampshire Premier League and winning promotion to Wessex One?"

"AFC Totton already spoke about it in last week's Pink.

Proper way

"Once you let one reserve team in, you'll get more – and where does that leave clubs like QK Southampton?"

"They can't get in because they haven't got floodlights and yet they're letting a reserve team in!

"Weymouth might have one hell of a reserve team, but I'd far rather play Hamble Club and AFC Stoneham who have worked their guts out to get ground grading and done it the proper way.

"You spend £100,000 trying to improve things and get a great youth policy going at Hythe and now, all of a sudden, we're playing reserve teams. It's not right."

● More non league football inside on pages 8-13.

✉ Got a sports story for us? Email echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Icelandic sporting greats!

FOOTBALL is not the only sport at which Icelanders have grown used to celebrating.

Here are five more sporting facts about the tiny Atlantic island nation:

STRONGMAN

Iceland is the undisputed king of the strongman world, having claimed eight World's Strongest Man titles, second only to the US. Magnus Ver Magnusson and the late Jon-Pall Sigmundsson won four each.

HANDBALL

Considered - until this week, at least - Iceland's national sport, handball has yielded some of its greatest sporting successes on the international stage. The Iceland men's team won the silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and went on to win a European bronze medal two years later.

OLYMPICS

Outside of handball success, Iceland have won three other Olympic medals in their history. Vilhjálmur Einarsson was the first Icelander to reach an Olympic podium after claiming men's triple jump silver in Melbourne in 1956. Vala Flösdóttir won women's pole vault bronze in Sydney in 2000 and Bjarni Friðriksson took judo bronze in 1984.

CONTRACT BRIDGE

A six-strong Icelandic team shocked the contract bridge world in 1991 by winning the world title in Yokohama, having only qualified as the fourth best team in Europe.

ICELANDIC HORSES

Unsurprisingly, Iceland are quite good at Icelandic horse events, having clinched a nosebag full of world titles on its competitive circuit, which centres on dressage-related events. The breed, according to the International Federation of Icelandic Horses, is "tough, independent, yet sociable and easy to get on with".



Iceland's Aron Gunnarsson celebrates Iceland's win over Austria.

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